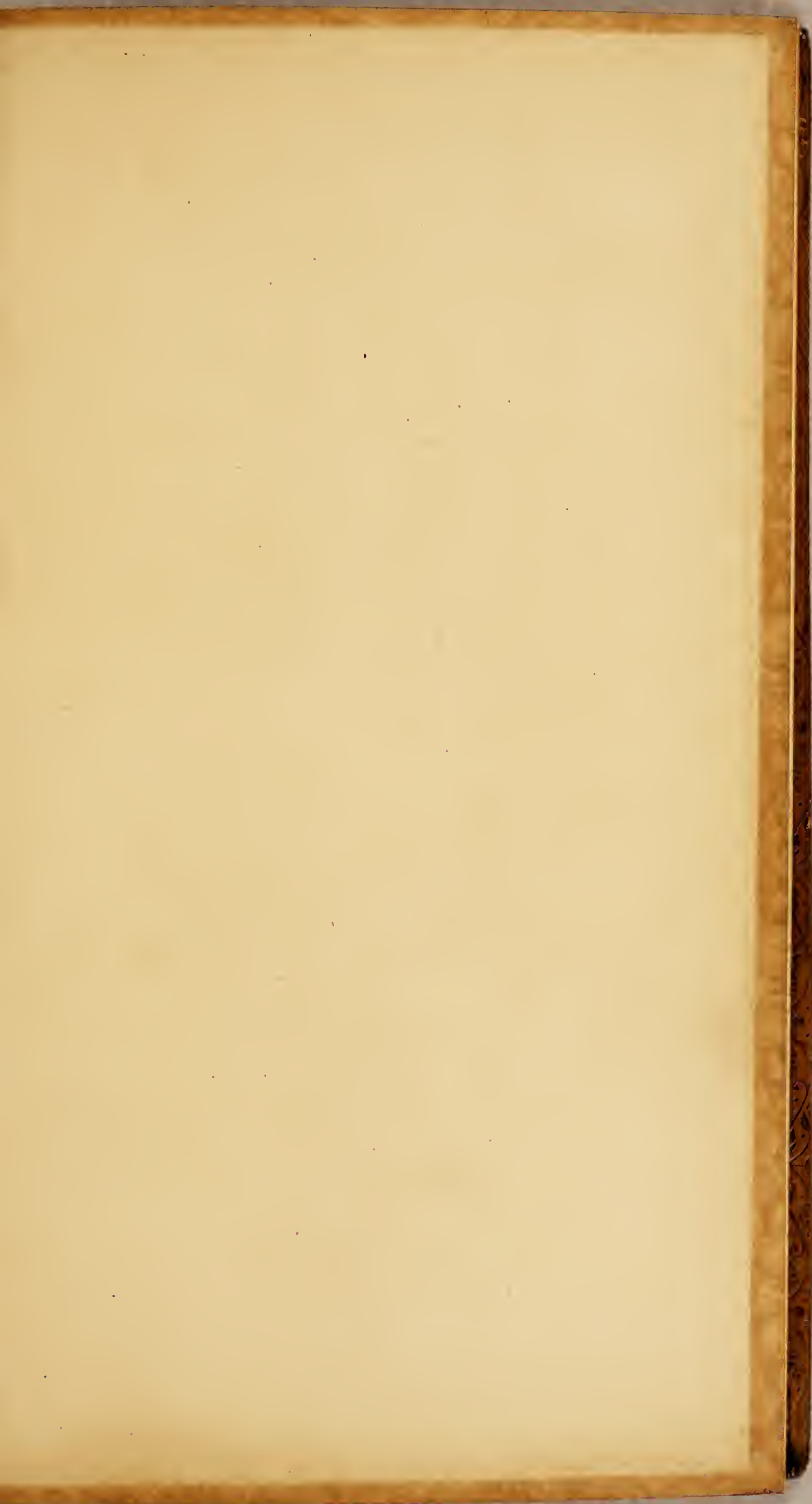


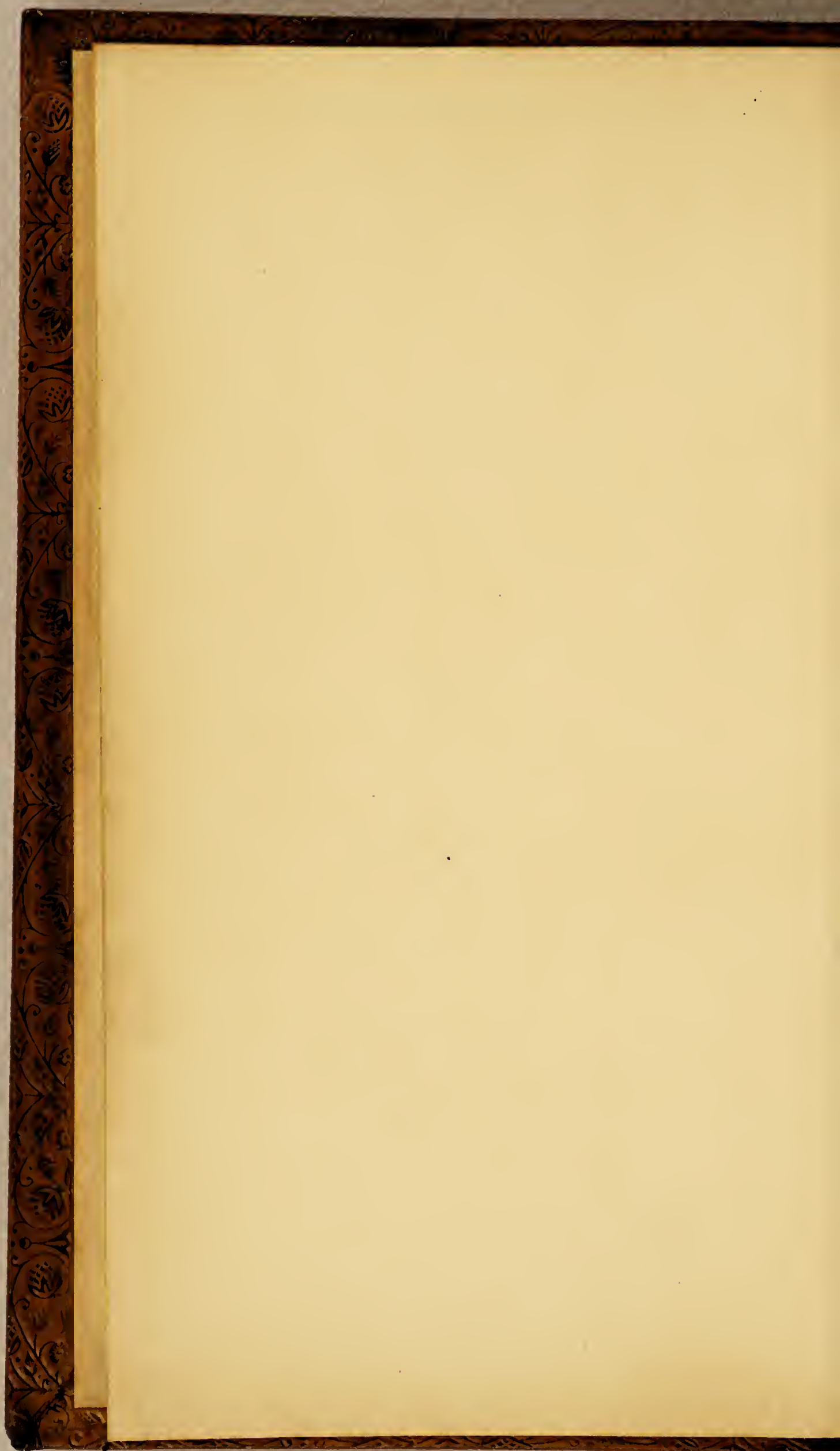


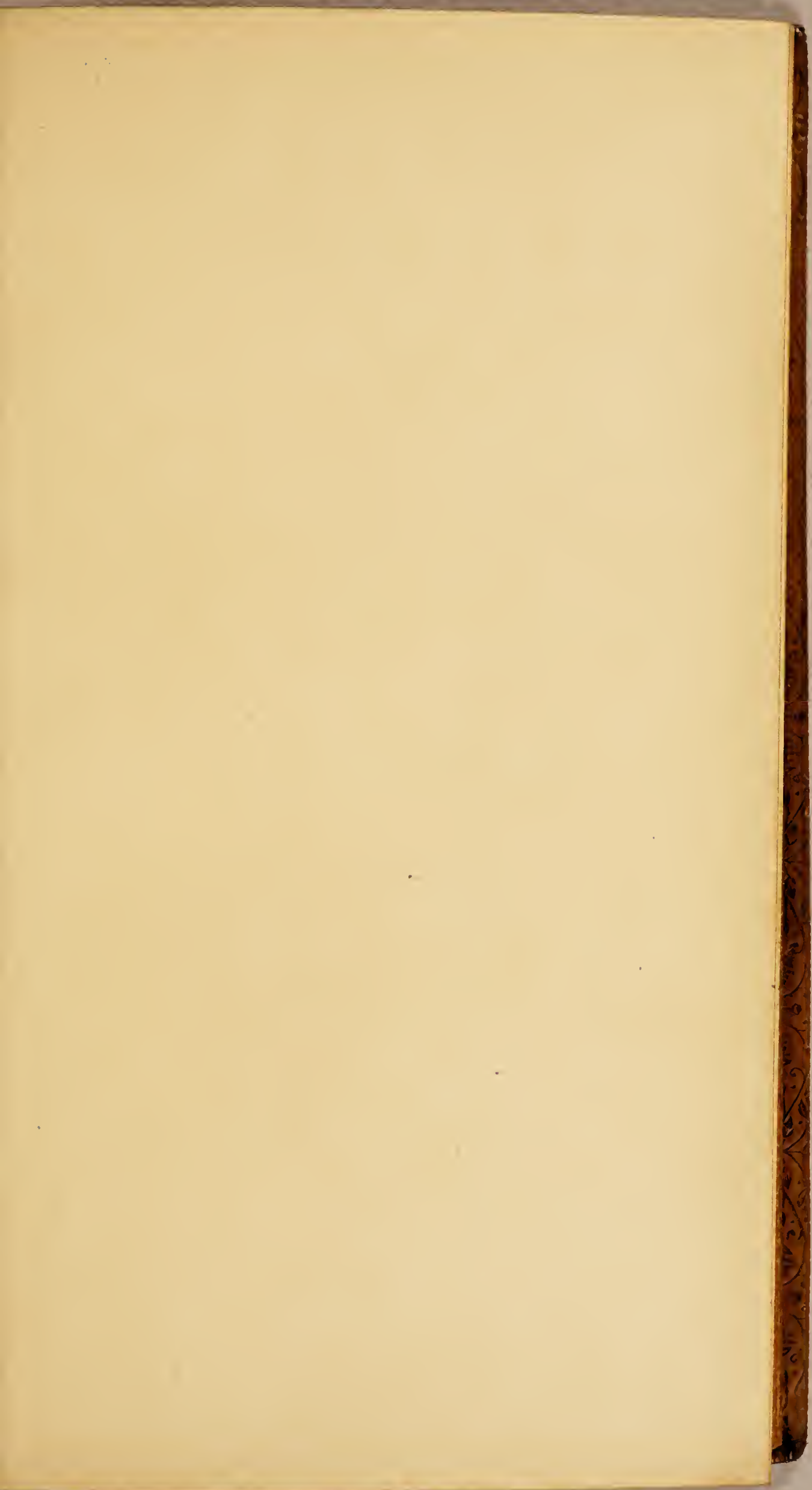
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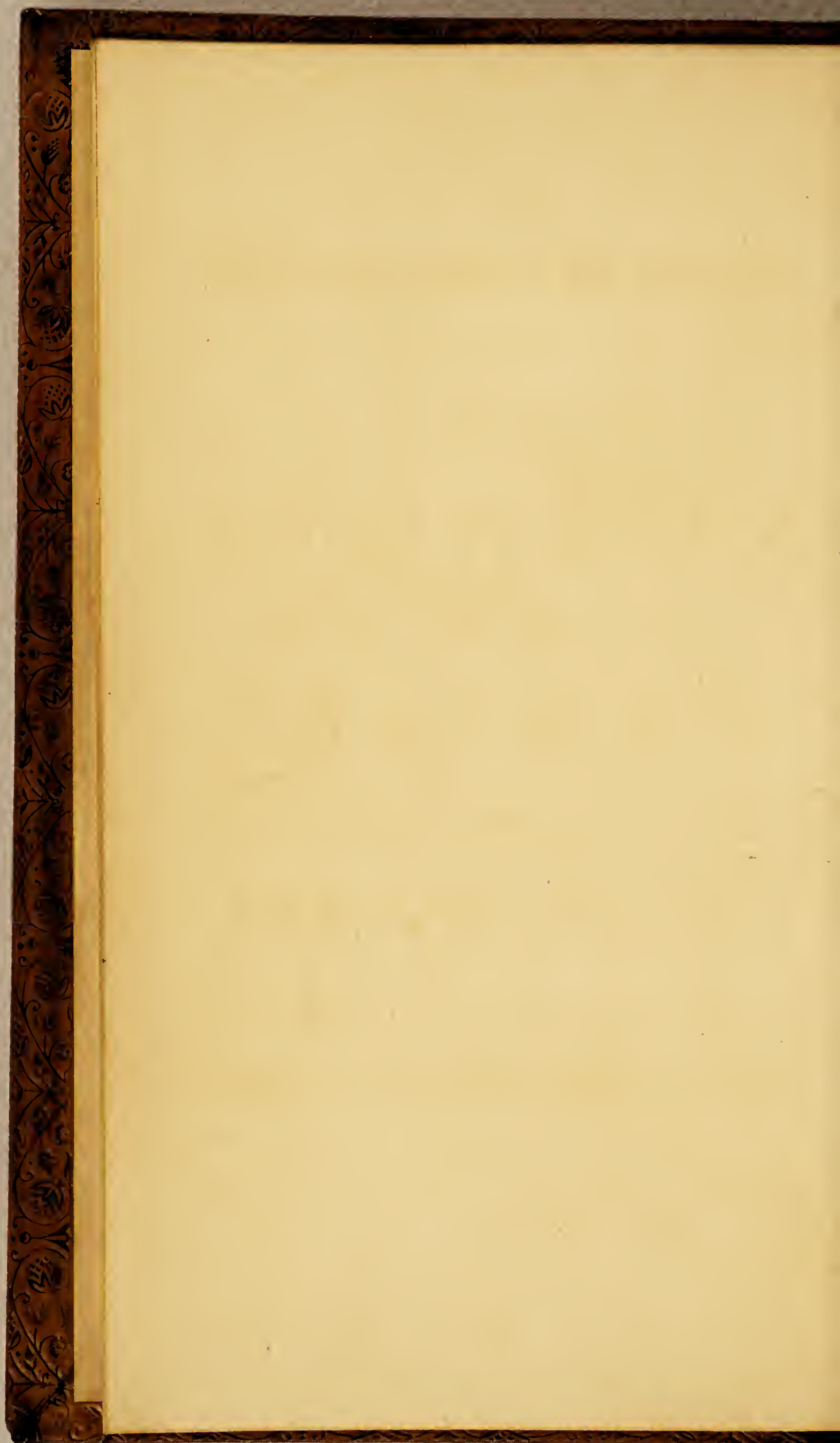


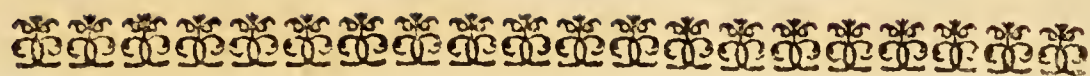
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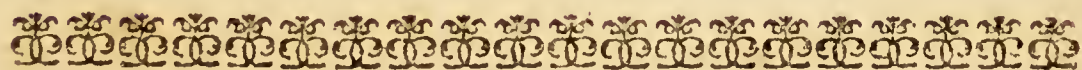








THE
VOYAGES
AND
CRUISES
OF
Commodore WALKER.



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THE
VOYAGES
AND
CRUISES
OF

Commodore WALKER,

During the late

SPANISH and FRENCH WARS.

VOL. II.

L O N D O N :

Printed for A. MILLAR, in the Strand.

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CRUISE IV. 1746

The ROYAL FAMILY.

CHAP. I.

The fitting out the Royal Family privateers ; accident to the Prince Frederick ; escape from three French men of war ; separation from the Princess Amelia ; meeting the West-India fleet ; taking a French tartan under the fortifications of Saffia ; complaint made to the court of London, and some observations thereon.

SOME gentlemen of London (John Casmajor, Valentine Comyns, Edward Ironside, Esqrs. and Mr. Parnell Neville, all since deceased, William Belcher, Israel Jalabert, and James Talbot, Esqrs.) in the year

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1746 fitted out a fleet of private ships of war, called the Royal Family, under the command of Mr. Walker; giving him the entire direction of the same, as to its equipment, and the appointment of all the officers. Captain Talbot's success in two of the said ships, which he had before commanded, engaged him and the rest to increase the number under the present trust. This fleet was fitted out at Bristol, and by a few delays in the managers, took up near three months, before it was compleated. The greater part of which time Mr. Walker was present, giving directions; as almost every thing depended upon his management; and had he been the first principle of motion, the machine had kept better time.

In one article, indeed, of our equipment, we had not the least difficulty,

culty, that of getting men : which is generally a cause of delay, and the most material business of preparing such expeditions. For most of the officers and men of the Boscawen continued close adherents to Mr. Walker; and the report of so great a private fleet to be fitted out, and the character and known success of the commander, had drawn together such numbers of sea-men to offer themselves, that near as many were refused as would have manned a like number of ships; though at this time there was a great scarcity of hands, both in the government's and merchant's service. Which circumstance seems to strengthen the opinion, I have often received from the willingness of our common sea-men to serve in private ships of war, that, "Was our navy put on a more favourable

footing in some particulars, very easy to be complied with, there would always be a sufficiency of men ready offering to the service :” For certainly there are equal hands in these kingdoms, with the assistance of neutral seamen, who flock to us in time of war, under a proper disposition of them, at one and the same time, to man the whole fleet of England, and navigate the trade of the merchants.

Amidst these preparations, a circumstance appeared very irregular in the outset ; which begot a dissatisfaction in some foreboding minds, as it assailed the confidence they before had in the managers. This was, that all the time of the fleet's being fitted out, no copy of the articles, which were to be executed between the managers, the officers, and men, was

was sent down for the perusal and inspection of those concerned : and though, at the repeated desire and request of several of the captains and officers, Mr. Walker had frequently wrote up to London for it, yet it could not be obtained ; till within a few days before the ships were prepared to sail, the articles themselves were sent down, ready ingrossed and signed by the managers. In these articles, besides allowing themselves five per cent. upon the whole, as managers, they had also made themselves agents to the officers and men, with a further allowance of five per cent. for such new office. This particular of the agency was so much dis-relished by most of the people, that many of the officers and others absolutely refused to serve any longer, and offered up their commissions.

missions. But Mr. Walker, who had now compleated the fleet, was eager to be at sea; and who, from his general good opinion of mankind (which known part of his character proceeds from the too common error of honest men judging others from themselves) had really conceived well of his managers, publickly expressed such his particular confidence in their honour, and turned advocate for the articles; saying, "That, whilst we disputed about the agency, we perhaps lost an opportunity of finding the fortune." By this and other persuasions, giving high encomiums on the great merit of our owners in fitting out so fine a set of ships, he at last prevailed, that every body in compliance signed the articles, tho' far from being convinced of the equity of them.

The

V O Y A G E S. 7

The fleet set sail April 28, 1746, *28 April 1746*
 from King's-road, Bristol, on a cruise
 of eight months. The ships were

			Guns.	Men.
King George,	George Walker,	Com.	32	300
Prince Frederick,	Hugh Bromedge,		26	260
Duke,	Edward Dottin,		20	260
	formerly first	} Capts.		
	lieutenant to			
	the Boscawen,			
Princess Amelia,	Robert Denham,		24	150
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			102	970

Crouds of spectators, as such a fleet
 had not appeared before in these parts,
 acclaimed aloud a pleasure at our ap-
 pearance; which was ecchoed in joy
 within the breasts of the men; and
 returned in salutes of our guns from
 every ship. But this great joy and
 fine appearance were overcast by two
 accidents, which damped the first
 and lessened the latter; for about

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twelve o'clock the Prince Frederick, through the carelessness or supposed ignorance of the pilot, ran ashore on the Welsh-hook, and made signals of distress. The tide running very strong in the channel, as it usually does, prevented the commodore sending any assistance: but at four o'clock he came to an anchor with the Duke and Princess Amelia, under the Flat-holmes. In the evening captain Bromedge's barge coming on board, acquainted the commodore that the Prince Frederick had received so much damage by her late accident, that it was thought she would not be able to proceed. Whereupon the commodore went himself on board the Prince Frederick, and finding she made eighteen inches water in an hour, he ordered her back, and sent an express of the accident to the
ma-

managers for their directions to him, whether to proceed, or wait her repair.

Whilst the ships lay thus waiting for an answer from the managers, the other accident happened on board the Duke : which was a very rash and passionate murder committed by one of the common men on another, by stabbing him in the breast, thro' an ill-grounded resentment for some slight affront conceived. Mr. Walker having had intelligence of the accident, went on board the Duke. The men, taking upon them to execute what had been strict justice in itself, though by no means legal in them, had hanged the murderer by the two wrists to the yard-arm, where the poor wretch was roaring in great agonies. Mr. Walker immediately ordered him down ; and taking the depositions of the evidence, sent the

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deceased, the criminal, and the two
principal witnesses, to a magistrate
at Bistol. The fellow was after-
wards tried and hanged.

3 May
1746

May third, the express returned from
the managers, with directions to put
to sea without the Prince Frede-
rick, who was obliged to go into
dock. Signal being again made for
weighing anchor, and orders left with
captain Bromedge in what station to
join us, we set sail on our cruise.
Our first station being ordered to be
between Cape St. Vincent in Portu-
gal and Cape Cantin, on the coast of
Barbary, till a certain day.—May 10,
the island of Scilly bearing S. E. by
E. distant seven leagues, the Princess
Amelia being a great way a-stern,
the commodore made signal for short-
ning sail till she got up. Whilst we
lay-to for her, we saw three sail to
the

May

the south-west quarter, standing to the eastward. Upon which, signal being given to chase, and all things ordered for engaging, we came so near them towards evening, as to discover they were ships of war of great force, at least sixty or seventy guns each ; therefore apprehending their slow making from us a pretence of fear to decoy us into their reach, as such it really was, we at once hauled our wind and left off the chase. On which they all hoisted French colours, tacked about, and stood after us. The Princess Amelia being, as was observed, greatly astern, it blowing very hard, and night coming on, signal was made for her to alter her course, and shut up her lights : which she obeyed. But we and the Duke, who kept close company with us, being so

much nearer to the enemy, apprehended ourselves in great danger of being over-taken. The commodore ordered us and the Duke, by signals, to keep on our course and set up our lights, which seemed a contradictory conduct to the orders given the Princess Amelia; and, as we were closely pursued, could not fail of being reprehended in most of our judgments. But it now growing dark, the commodore called the carpenter to him, and making him fix a step in a large bathing tub he had for his own use, and set a pole upright in it like a mast, he put into it a quantity of ballast, and ordered him to nail a tarpaulin closely over it; then hanging a lantern and light to the top, he let it down over the stern into the sea. We then shut up all our lights and altered our course, ^{as} did

I dare say Mr Walker never read Ammianus Marcellinus, who himself managed a similar escape from the Persians by a lantern fixed to a horse
[L. xviii, p. 146, 147]

did the Duke also. At day-break we saw nothing of the three French men of war, but missing also the Princess Amelia, we imagined that she must have fallen in with the enemy, and struck to them. This finesse, which was certainly the cause of our preservation, might, I think, be improved into common practice on the like occasions, by all ships who run such danger, taking with them a few small boats or skiffs, such as fishermen drag after them with their live fish : for if the light exists but for a few minutes, the purpose is answered.

The same morning, about six o'clock, we saw in the south-east quarter a large fleet of ships, whom the commodore imagined to be a fleet, which the aforesaid men of war were conveying : and, as he supposed, had lost.

*Almost the same stratagem was used at
in the civil wars of Genoa. [Stella Annot.
mens. ap. Muratori Script. N. xvii, col. 1061]
but neither of these detract in the smallest
degree from the originality of Mr Walker's invention.*

lost. We instantly bore down to them; and upon coming near, perceived several large ships of force also with them: but as they were all to leeward, Mr. Walker ordered our course to be continued, saying, that though he might not have leave given him to burn, sink, and destroy, according to his orders; yet he would venture to pick and chuse as many of them as he could man. At nine o'clock, we came up with them. They proved to be our own West-India and Newfoundland fleet, with several East-India ships, under convoy of the Milford and Rye men of war. Mr. Walker went on board his majesty's ship the Rye, to acquaint the captain of our having seen three French men of war the day before, and to inform him of the latitude in which we imagined them to be.

And

And here I must take notice of a circumstance relating to the misconduct of our own merchant-men, in the great disregard they pay in general to the orders of their convoy, of which this is a particular instance : Mr. Walker having observed to the captain of the Rye, that had he himself been a French man, or they a French fleet, he could have made any number of them prizes, and brought them off in spite of the convoy. The captain made answer, “ True, sir, and what censure would have fallen on his majesty’s officers ? and yet let me do all I can, these masters of common vessels, who sail better than the rest, will keep to windward : for as to firing at them, I have done it till I am tired, and may fire away every shot in the ship.”

He

He then asked Mr. Walker, "if his intent was to keep company?" But Mr. Walker answered, that "as there was no enemy in sight, nor any certainty of meeting one, such delay might be imputed by his owners wrong in him." However, the Indiamen were ordered by the captain of the Rye, to hoist up pennants to appear as men of war, and to form themselves and sail in a line of battle. And Mr. Walker, having given this necessary information, took his leave; and afterwards plyed to windward of the straggling merchant men, and by firing obliged them to bear down under the lee of their convoy. The commodore of the Rye and Mr. Walker then parted with mutual salutes of guns; and we afterwards had the pleasure to hear that they all arrived safe.

From

From this time to the 31st of May, the weather continued very hazy. In which interim we gave chase to several sail; but, they either by having the wind of us, or by the power of the night got clear. And here we found our feathers clipped, wanting the swiftness of the Boscawen, who in comparison to our present ships, was as a bird of prey to the labouring wing of a pursued inferior. However, we had a stout and well built ship under us, which was of equal use in its place. We constantly made the signal of the Princess Amelia, to all the ships we saw, which we could imagine might be she, hoping to have met her; but not being answered by any, concluded her, as we before said, fallen into the enemy's hand. Being now come upon our station, off Cape Cautin, we saw an armed sail off the bay of Saffia,

Saffia, on the coast of Barbary, who hoisting French colours immediately run into the road. We then stood in after her, running as far as seven fathom water, and fired some shots; at the same time the fortification returned the fire we intended at her pretty smartly upon us. But the commodore being unacquainted with the bay, and not daring to venture in any further for fear of shallow water, made his signal to our other ships to sail off, which we likewise did, as if we meant intirely to quit her. When it was dark, he again brought-to with the Duke and made signals for the captain and first lieutenant to come on board: this was in order to consult about cutting her out; for as he well knew the emperor of Moroccowas then at war with the French, he did not imagine the fort meant to protect her
from

from the English, with whom he was at peace, and concluded the firing from the fortifications to have proceeded from mistake. Upon this presumption, three boats were ordered to be manned, with design to sound the bay close under shore, and so to board her and cut her away. The boats received express orders, that when they came so near the enemy as to be perceived, they should make several false fires; which the enemy, should they be then lying on their small arms, might imagine so many combustible stink-pots to be thrown in upon them; and which in all probability would occasion them immediately to quit their decks. The command of this action was given to Mr. Riddle, the commodore's second lieutenant. Accordingly the boats set off, well officered and manned. About one o'clock we heard

heard the report of a brisk firing from the bay, by which we judged, they had met with a sharp reception. And so it proved; for the enemy, lying on the watch, as was conjectured, received the boats with a well supported preparation, whilst the attack was as resolute on our side. Our boats hoping to surprize them, trusted in this their own after-thought, and neglected to light the false fires as were directed; but the moon rising, shewed them their mistake, and discovered them to the enemy, who being in expectation of them had time to get to their arms: for she was a French pollacra, with a letter of marque, having six carriage guns, eighty small arms, and about twenty men. Mr. Riddle was at one fire very strangely wounded in two several places by a ball entering in at his temple above the cheek bone and out
of

of the other, and by another ball passing in at his shoulder quite under the skin and flesh, out of the opposite one, upon which he instantly fell. Yet nothing dismayed, the rest boldly pressed forward to board sword in hand; which was at last effected; the men in the ship firing their volleys very thick, and the forts continually playing on our boats at the same time. At half an hour after four in the morning, the firing ceased; whereupon we made our signals for the boats, and were answered by them: and at three o'clock we saw them returning with the vessel; which was the Postilion d'Nantz, burthen about ninety tons, bound to Cadiz. Several men were wounded on the side of the enemy, and the only accident received on ours, besides Mr. Riddle's wounds, was that of one
man

man losing an hand as he boarded, which was entirely cut off at a blow ; as to Mr. Riddle's wounds, they were afterwards to an admiration perfectly cured ; and his friends have the pleasure of his being at present living, to shew the indisputable tokens of our report.

Upon the commodore's examining the condition of the prize, and finding her, upon information, to be a very prime sailer, he appointed her as a tender, in the room of the Princess Amelia ; and calling her the Prince George, manned her with thirty hands, and gave the command to Mr. John Green, his first lieutenant. It may be asked, why this late business was put under the conduct of the commodore's second lieutenant, and the first rewarded by it ? When the resolution was taken by the commodore
the

the first lieutenant gave his opinion, that it would be better to wait till day-light, but offered to go. “ Sir, says Mr. Walker, though I have no reason to doubt your prowess, yet I never will send a man upon an expedition to which he has any objection :” and so gave the command to Mr. Riddle. On our returning with success, he shewed his respect to Mr. Green by giving him his due place or rank ; and Mr. Riddle did not go unrewarded, as will be hereafter shewn. But we must first recover him of his wounds.

Mr. Walker took the usual care of his prisoners ; and afterwards, June 6, meeting with a Dutch snow (the Peace) coming from Salle, and bound to Santa Cruz in Barbary ; the captain of the French prize requested to be put on board the Dutch ship, re-

4

pre-

*6 June
1746*

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presenting to Mr. Walker, that he believed he should be able at the last place, with the assistance of his friends, to ransom the cargo. This Mr. Walker complied with; and he was accordingly put on board. In

*By June
1724*

consequence whereof, on the 9th we stood in to Santa Cruz, and in the evening a boat came off with two letters to the commodore, "That as the Postilion de Nantz was taken under the cannon of Saffia, they thought her not a legal prize; and therefore would not ransom her cargo." The commodore's chief aim of coming to the place was only to serve the unfortunate captain: he had no time to lose in argument; and immediately made sail out of the bay, having first discharged and sent a-shore all the prisoners with their cloaths, &c. except three of the

men, whom he reserved in order to condemn the vessel.

We some years after found, that a complaint of this matter had been made by the Moors to the court of London : it being alledged a custom with them, to receive and protect any ship of what nation soever, which comes to trade or traffick with them ; though at the same time in war with the country to which it belongs. This was a circumstance, at the time not known to Mr. Walker, nor is it in fact a real truth, but depends mostly on their arbitrary humour, as occasion suits. The affair, as it has been said, was considered as attacking an enemy's ship in the port of its enemy ; else Mr. Walker (as I am confident from a knowledge of his prudence and disposition, and as I have heard him declare, which is

proof sufficient) would not have committed the least act of hostility, or infringement on the lowest power in friendship with us, to have gained the richest prize upon the seas ; or risked doing a violence to any of his country's treaties. The great danger such actions are liable to, of misleading the opinions of the people at home, by the false representations of things abroad, being matters of uncertainty, ought to make our officers in such command more than ordinary cautious : as a moment's rashness, for a little lucre to a few particulars, may be the cause of evils running down, like a distemper in the blood of posterity, and an expence of millioned treasures to the nations on both sides. Such rencounters abroad are generally acted in a disputed latitude, and are a latitude of dispute

dispute to their owners at home ; whilst king, minister, and people must take their words, at the first instance, of the hair-breadth distances in debate, or measurements at sea. Restitution is then the word, before the right is proved. At the partial disappointment, the Antigallic nation is told to cry revenge ; and if the minister still keeps his temper, a Cromwell's ghost is wanted to take upon him the new war. Such proceedings ought to stand in example like rocks to be avoided, in the conduct of all future sea-men ; and I am the more explicit in delivering my opinion herein, as I know some persons have endeavoured to throw a censure on Mr. Walker's behaviour, upon account of this preceding capture at Saffia. However, the restitution here could be but very trifling : the chief

of the cargo being but forty tons of bees-wax, powder, and warlike implements, bound ~~in~~ Cadiz, the whole *to* computed at but 1784 *l.* 14 *s.* 5 *d.* nor did Mr. Walker know of the complaint, till he was absolutely a prisoner in the King's Bench, unable to make enquiry or application, to set matters, if needed, to rights. But when Envy cannot get herself lifted up to stand with Fame upon her pedestal, it sets Calumny to work at the pillar, to throw the envied statue down.

C H A P. II.

Alteration of our station; meeting the Prince Frederick; landing at Tercera; the entertainments there.

TH E certain day in Mr. Walker's orders being expired, we were now to change our cruise for the remaining part of the first four months to a new station: viz. between the western isles and banks of Newfoundland. Accordingly, July *5 July* the fifth, plying off Tercera, one of *1746* the western isles, with an intent of watering, we saw a sail to the eastward, bearing down upon us, as willing to come to an engagement. Discovering her to be a ship of force, we soon cleared, and got all hands

to quarters : but, on coming up, how great our joy, she proved to be the Prince Frederick, captain Bromedge, whom we left to repair at Bristol. Captain Bromedge also brought the news, that the Princess Amelia, being chased by three French men of war, had strained herself in carrying too much sail, and sprung a-leak ; but that she had got clear of them, and being obliged to bear away for Lisbon, had made that port half full of water. This account he received off Cape Cantin by a schooner, which she had on purpose sent express to that station ; and though not a very favourable one, yet it was accepted by us as good news, in comparison to the total loss of her, which we had supposed ; as it completed the joy of our knowing our whole family was yet alive.

We

We stopped at Tercera to water, where our new tender the Prince George was of great use to us : for the watering at that place is attended with great difficulty to ships of any bigness, and with some danger even to small ones. Wherefore the commodore sent her to anchor in the road, there to take in her loading of wood and water, whilst our ships in the mean time lay waiting off and on, in the offing.

The commodore going on shore for a few necessaries, some of us went with him to see the island, being a place little frequented by strangers, perhaps on the account of the danger for shipping. It is nevertheless blessed with a prolific fertility in various commodities, as wines, corn, fruits, lemons, oranges, and olives ; and by its commodious situation for trade,

might answer the hopes of the adventurous. Nature has also poured her greatest beauties on it, which again are not left neglected or unadorned by art. It is inhabited by the Portuguese, and has some magnificent buildings and squares in its little metropolis, being a place of residence of several of the Portuguese noblemen, and other families of distinction. It has also an English consul. The commodore waiting on the consul, was by him the same evening, introduced to several of the noblemen; and as there was next day to be a consecration of a new church, he was by them invited to see the ceremony. The consul, upon our taking leave, asked the commodore, if he had any musicians on board? and said, their assistance at the said ceremony would be taken as a great compliment, for
the

the place had very few such of the degrees of perfection. As the commodore was a lover of music, he had a finer band than perhaps ever were together in one ship (viz. two horns and two flutes, which had been in the king of Denmark's service at Copenhagen, and had been with us in the Boscawen, as before-mentioned; to which he had added a black drummer, and an hand from England of great execution on the large or Welsh harp (an instrument not much in use but excelled by none) as also a performer on the violin who was reckoned the second in England, but whose bad circumstances obliged him to put himself in this service. He sent them all, immediately on his coming on board the same evening, to the consul's, that they might join in the rehearsal that evening, ordering

them to take changes of dress for next day. We had also two of our young gentlemen volunteers, so remarkably great on the violin, that, if they had disliked the profession, they had certainly made it their study. To these also the commodore gave the offer of going, which they accepted. The next day, he and some of the captains, principal officers, and gentlemen of the four ships coming on shore, some of the noblemen and gentlemen of the church met him; and, in acknowledging his civility of the preceding evening, gave him an intelligence of himself and his commission; which he did not before know of, "That he was sent by their new saint to assist them on the happy occasion." The procession to the church was very grand. All the noblemen and other persons of distinction,

stinction, priests, jesuits, and gentlemen walking, and some equipages attending. When we came to the church, which was very magnificent, large, and lofty, being (to our surprise in this æra of taste) in the Gothic stile, richly ornamented ; we were conducted to a place prepared for our reception : and, except as to the performance of some offices in the ceremony of consecration, which could not but give umbrage to the free born reason of Englishmen, unsubdued by priesthood or church-superstition, the divine service was very exalted, and awe-striking to the heart. So that to use the words of a French author, “ If heaven did not approve the justness of the worship, it could not be displeased at the endeavour.” I think it is Mons. St. Evremont, who makes an observation on this subject, be-

tween the different manners of worship in the Catholics and Presbyterians, "That the first do every thing they think will please, and the latter are tender of doing any thing they fear may displease." To which, as an observer of the present performance, I will here venture to add, That by the overdoing of the one, upon these principles, and the too little ceremony of the other, the medium is left, as the properest or temperate state between the two extremes, to be filled up by some just borrower of their merits and corrector of their faults : in which character the present Protestant might with some easy and happy alteration stand. The musical performance was certainly much indebted to the various change of instruments our few hands added to its harmony : as the same
per-

performers on the horns were occasionally equally powerful on the trumpet, and the fluters on the hautboys ; which sometimes in separate pieces, oftentimes joined by our three violins and the new organ, which was a very fine one, and accompanied by voices numerous and perfect, composed a concert truly grand. Our black drummer also performed with great earnestness and attention, putting on a face of self-significancy and general admiration. Which so worked inward in a real sense of feeling approbation, that we may say he got here a new religion ; for he never after would be persuaded to think otherways, but that the Tercera religion was the best ; because, as he said, it was *most worship*. This is as strong a proof as we can have from nature, that, in argument of reformation, it is the

errors of doctrine we ought to contend with, not the ceremony of worship ; which, to make it serious to the impressionable mind, cannot be too solemn, or too much assisted by every decency of dress, which makes it reasonably more so.

After the consecration was over, the time would not permit of any other invitation of repast being given us, except a most elegant regale of sweet meats, fruits, and wines ; for we were hastened from hence to another entertainment, the fight of their bulls, commonly called a bull-feast. This was performed in their largest square in their town, built round with stately houses, where the people of fashion resided. Most of the houses had large balconies, which were on this occasion hung round with tapestry and other ornaments ; and filled with
gentle-

gentlemen and ladies, all in high drefs, which made a very great appearance. There was a particular balcony appointed for us. And as the entertainment was a new one, we could not but be obliged at the notice taken of us in fuch fingular accommodation.

There were three bulls, and to each a cavalier, who were perfons of diftinction, attended by footmen of an inferior quality ; and each combat was fingle. The horfeman was armed with a ftrong lance, and the footmen with fmall fpears and darts, and with loofe cloaks or pieces of fcarlet-cloth in their hands. At the found of a trumpet the bull was turned up through a kind of trap-door, from a ground-chamber wherein he was houfed, into the fquare, at the infide of railings. And coming out from
his

cell furious, and maddened with the shouts of the spectators, the horseman advancing, he generally makes up to him; if not, he is provoked and instigated to a madness or courage by the darts and other insults of the footmen. The cavalier always shews his great skill in horsemanship, in the number of circumvolutions he makes to avoid the blow of the enemy. Sometimes he is so fortunate as to kill him at the first thrust of his lance, aiming mostly at the back of the neck where the spinal vein runs: which if cut through or wounded, the bull, as is the case with all other animals, falls at once lifeless to the ground: and this is the highest victory can be gained over him. At which, and at all other feats of gallantry or horsemanship in the combat, the ladies and other spectators signify their approbations

tions by waving out their handkerchiefs. The conqueror always immediately rides up to the most considerable personages in the place, or some admired fair-one, to pay his devoirs to them; which are always received with great returns of applause. Sometimes, if he miss his stroke at the bull, the bull is victor both of man and horse; and often kills both, or either; but generally the horse, ripping open his very bowels: though, if the cavalier be unhorfed, the attendants on foot, who keep on each side of him, interpose; and by throwing their darts at the bull, draw his pursuit after some one of them. Some of the darts have lighted squibs at the end, which firing and bursting, as they stick in his hide, provoke him to such anger, as makes it terrible to see
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and hear. In this exercise, the footmen are surprizingly expert and nimble; but if the bull be too quick upon any of them, the person so attacked throws his cloak on his horns, just at the stoop of his head; in which position for his stroke the creature always shuts his eyes; and then with admirable agility steps aside. Sometimes, though the footman miss his horn, yet if he but lets the cloth fall before him, the bull always stops to engage that; and will toss it, if permitted, for a considerable time. This is a knowledge, with which, and a presence of mind, a person by accident attacked by any of these creatures, may with ease escape. Having seen the performance here, I some years ago in Essex, escaped safe from one of them, who made at me alone in a field, by opening an India coloured

coloured handkerchief, and letting it fall. However, by the great nimbleness and sudden turnings of the creature, many of the most expert in this sport are taken by surprize ; and are often killed or miserably wounded, being sometimes tossed by his horns in the air upwards of fifteen feet high. If one cavalier be dismounted, another engages him, thus more provoked, and another : and if he holds the conquest over them, the footmen then begin a new attack with their spears, untill he falls a victim to as cruel a diversion, except our English throwing at cocks, as ever gave entertainment to the human attention ; especially that of the tenderer part of our species, the fair-sex.

This diversion over, Mr. Walker, and his officers received an invitation from the lady-abbess of the nunnery there,

there, to pay her a visit before his departure, if possible, that evening. The message was well understood, she being desirous of hearing our musicians, having received a report of them from the priests in the morning. Mr. Walker very obligingly went, and carried us all with him. We were conducted into a very lofty and spacious hall, divided a-cross in the middle, with rails finely wrought, reaching up almost to the cieling, all of silver. In the hall were some large scripture-paintings of great expression, some bustoes of curious workmanship, and a cornice with carvings of great boldness and design. A carpet was spread, and chairs placed for Mr. Walker and his company near the rails, with stands for the performers: a chair was set at the inside for the lady-abbess, and benches ranged

ranged behind for the other ladies of the nunnery, raised in the manner of a theatre. The lady-abbess came forward to the rails, and with great address, expressing herself in French, complimented our visit as an honour done to her and her house : she then took her seat, two nuns in veils standing by her all the time, one on each side ; behind her the young nuns and other votaries placed themselves in gradual rows one above another, some of them of exquisite beauty. The concert began on our side, which being, to say truth, performed with excellent mastership, and greatly aided in sound by the well-toned eccho of the hall, gave such rapture, to the fair hearers that from the lady herself to the youngest fair-one their expressions of pleasure declared their sensations of it to be
near

near an ecstacy. On their parts between the intervals, several of them played their guittars, alone, and accompanied with others ; and some of them sang. Between the acts, salvers of sweet-meats, of the greatest variety and fancy, were served to us, and wines ; all of their own making, very rich and of grateful scent and flavour. As the lady-abbess spoke both French and Latin very fluently, she kept up an easy conversation with us, in which she paid the English great compliments for their high deservings in this world ; but prayed much for their souls in the next. This kind of complimentary consorts were repeated and returned from the one to the other for near three hours, and no such space of time could have been more pleasingly spent ; when the lady-abbess, after giving us her bene-

benediction and paying us her thanks, retired with as much grace as she came on. The rest of the nuns or young votaries ran to various other gates, at the outer sides of the hall, under a piazza or cloisters, where each or most, being equally skilled in speaking as their mistrefs (languages being a peculiar study with them) entered with great ease and familiarity into conversation with most of our officers: which naturally turning on compliments to their beauty, and true expressions of pity at such happiness as they had power to bless mankind withal, being thus cloistered from the world, they as tenderly made love in their strain, but more in the Platonic than rational system. In short, their expressions of brotherly and sisterly love, and of their marriages with Jesus, were neither more

nor less than the very phrases and plan of thoughts at present used by our new ^eset of methodists. They even proceed so far in this extravagance as to confess real passions : and particularly, one lady gave a letter to one of our officers, to be delivered to an English gentleman, with whom, from some like opportunity as this, she had fallen in love. As we did not know where to find the lover, and had a curiosity of reading it, it was afterwards opened, and from first to last had been a flower in a discourse of enthusiastic oratory. I have since seen an ingenious treatise, intitled, The Methodists and Papists compared, and as I read it, could verify the truth of most of its opinions in this short experience. At which time also, I could not help drawing the conclusion, that all extremes

extremes in religion, as in other things, come round to the same point. But what to me seemed most remarkable, was, that every one of them declared with plausible sincerity their approbation of their present state, without a desire to change. How long they would have continued their likings to it, had our young officers the liberty of more frequent visits, I will not pretend to make a judgment of; but I cannot help thinking such methods of robbing our sex of so many of the choicest gifts of Heaven to it, looks like the contrivance or diabolical scheme of some enemy to the species. And they, who would argue otherwise, must first go, after a three months cruise, and converse with them at a grate, before I pay any attention.

After such a variety of amusements, and living all day only on sweet-meats, we were glad of accepting Mr. Consul's invitation to supper. Whilst we were there, a couple of gentlemen from the Jesuits, came commissioned to invite us to their college the next day. At this time a gentleman of the island, a Franciscan, was in company: the business of whose order is to beg for alms to give again away to the poor. Another plan copied by our new imitating order, and doubtless meritorious! where people are not proper judges of their own charity, and provided these commissioners turn out good agents, and exceed not their spiritual commission or tythes of ten per cent. This gentleman, perceiving our willingness to visit the Jesuit's college, as soon as their backs were turned, bid us take care not to give them

them an opportunity of making our wills. Our ignorance of his meaning, gave him a scope to entertain us with much humour, of which he was a perfect master, for the greater part of the night, in giving us an account of their various tricks and devices made use of to gain people consents in their last moments for leaving the greater parts of their fortunes from their families to them. At which time a nod, or contrived bob of the sick man's head, is a sufficient indication of an assent, and as good in law as a regular sealing and delivery. This tell-tale wit, however, shewed us, that whatever charity these several orders of their church pretend they have very little for one another. It would be loitering in our history to keep the reader longer

at Tercera. Next day, after paying a visit to the college, where our reception was every way agreeable ; and where we were shewed some curiosities, our time of watering was compleated ; for business went on at the same time with pleasure. We then set sail with our fleet, again made perfect as to the number and order of our ships.



C H A P. III.

The losing company of the Prince George tender in a chase ; landing at the island of Flores ; meeting with two of our East-India men, and arrival at Lisbon ; the badness of our provisions ; the method of taking turtle.

ON our cruise off the western islands, July the twentieth, the Prince Frederick made signal of seeing some strange ships : we gave chase, and in a few hours after, saw plainly eight sail, who crouded from us as fast as they could. In this chase, we lost sight of the Prince George. When we came up with the sternmost ship, which was the largest, she proved to be a Dutch

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*20 July
1746*

man of war of forty-four guns from Curosoe to Amsterdam, with seven merchantmen in convoy. The captain could not be perswaded but that there was a Dutch war with France, having had letters from Holland, as he said, of three months date, to such import, which was the reason of his making from us, imagining us to be French. It was six days after this, before we saw any thing of our tender, at which time she came in sight, making signals of wanting to speak with the commodore : she gave an account, that in the late chase in swaying or hoisting up her main-top mast, the rope gave way, by which accident the mast fell down perpendicular on the deck, and broke three of her beams. Upon this report, the commodore sent the carpenters on board ; and, as it luckily proved moderate

derate and fine weather, he at the same time employed all the boats, in carrying the water from the tender on board the ships; and gave directions to captain Green, that in case of a like chase and her springing her mast therein, which the commodore apprehended might be the consequence of the late accident, he should make to Lisbon. Accordingly so it happened: for on the thirty-first, spreading the sea as much as possible, we saw a sail to windward, the Prince Frederick distant about three leagues, and the chase about four, the Duke to leeward. In this pursuit we again lost sight of the Prince George. Captain Bromedge had the chase twice almost under his bowsprit, and perceived her to be a large snow, full of men; but she going exceeding well, put directly before the wind; and it

31 July
1740

being a dark night, she altered her course, and he lost sight of her. We waited two full days for the coming of the tender; but she not appearing in that time, we judged the accident had happened which we feared. We therefore, concluded her gone to Lisbon. On the twenty-fifth of August, we saw the island of Flores, and having been out five weeks since our last watering; and again wanting a supply, we went on shore, whilst our ships kept cruising in the offing.

Here the commodore found it necessary to apply to some of the inhabitants to assist us in the watering; for the sweet water is here separated from the salt by precipices, above which it is lodged, and over them falls, almost quite round the island, in sheets, that break upon the rocks, and form so many beautiful cascades
below :

25 Aug
1746

below : so that the island seems a gathered heap of waters, or numberless fountains in the midst of the sea. The space for the fresh-water to run from the bottom of the precipices, till it meets the sea, is so short, that the salt-water immediately mixes with it wherever it has formed itself by a channel into a river, or to any depth, where a boat may be brought.

There being no English consul, Mr. Walker was obliged to address himself to some of the Portuguese gentlemen ; who were so ready in ordering all necessary assistance, that Mr. Walker thought himself indebted in some return of compliment. Accordingly he gave an invitation to the gentlemen of the island to dinner, who were not very numerous, the whole island not being above five miles in length, and two in breadth. The entertain-

ment was made on the sea-shore, under a rock near one of those beautiful cascades in prospect of the ships. And from the beauty of the situation, the ease of the reception, and music accompanying (especially the horns, which were placed in such a chosen spot, as to be caught in sound by various ecchoes, one after another, that died away along the windings of the coast) it was perhaps the highest entertainment had been given in the place ; and doubtless will help to confirm its inhabitants in their practice of civility, and in a readiness to oblige all succeeding ships of our country.

We soon got again on board; and in pursuing our cruise, at break of day on the twenty-eighth, we saw two large ships about three leagues distance. The commodore immediately ordered out

28 Aug
1766

the signals to chase ; but there being very little wind, and the pursued ships going near as well as we did, the chase held for three days and two nights. We were mostly afraid of their getting from us in the night, by altering their courses ; which the commodore perceived them endeavouring to do : wherefore, as there were but light breezes, he ordered out the boats to keep on them at all quarters, and to make false fires, for a direction for the whole fleet to keep in the chase. The second day, we could discern the painting of their ships to be of French fashion. The commodore then wished us joy of our fortunes being made, and the end of the cruise accomplished, acquainting us with a circumstance, not before known by us with any certainty, which was, “ That the original in-

tention of our owners in fitting out the fleet, was for us to have gone to *de Moronhaz*, a certain port, ~~Ferdinando Nero~~, ~~in~~ wherein, as they had intelligence, two rich ships, the Henry and Hector, having at least a million on board, from the South Seas, were laid up for a certain season." But as the outfit of our fleet had been prevented, by various delays (which we have remarked) beyond the day intended for our sailing on that expedition, we had, as he informed us, taken our different past stations, with a design to intercept them in their way home. He now said, "that the time and all other appearances corresponded to form a belief that the ships in sight were these spoke of." This account made us doubly alert and diligent; and in no time of his life was Mr. Walker seen to shew so much elevation

tion at good fortune as now. But, alafs! he did not know what the hearer will be equally surpris'd at being informed of; that he at the head of this fine fleet, and it together, were intended to be only the dupes of greater covetousness in some of our owners, who had only joined in this expedition with the others as equal privies in the intelligence, and had secretly sent two other ships to the above port, on another joint account, in which they had fewer parties to share with: who, in security of their own intention, to frustrate our destination, had in the outset of the fleet thrown many delays in its way; and so planned the commodore's orders as purposely to miss the above-mentioned ships. But as a disquisition of these particulars belong to a further relation, we shall defer them, with a detail of that expedition and
its

its success, to such their more proper place. However, our commodore in the end made his cruise the better value to his proprietors, notwithstanding such treachery at home, to cut him off from this his birth-right of success. Without offence to state policies, how just an epitome is this of the variance of intention sometime between the designs at home, and the orders to the commander abroad ! and what a hazardous commission does such general or admiral often take, as to his credit with the people, if he does not succeed ; so that public censure mostly flies at random, but applause always hits the mark.

The third day, as we drew near our chase, they hoisted French colours ; but when we came so near, as for them to be assured what country ships we were, they pulled down
their

their French colours, and hoisting English, lay-to for us, as willing to speak with us. They were two of our own East India ships homeward bound, the Royal George, captain Thomas Field, and Scarborough, captain Philip D'Auvergne; and had on account of the war, disguised and painted themselves in India, like French ships, the better to favour their coming home. The reader may conceive the great disappointment we here felt, in meeting them not an enemy; but as our cruise was only about half run, and we were all in health and spirits, we entered on the other part of it with equal hopes, and trusted to better fortune.

These ships were going for Lisbon there to wait for convoy; and having great value on board, and the seas, in which they were, being very hazardous,

as

as full of enemies, the captains offered the commodore, if he would convoy them thither, their joint bonds of one thousand pounds, to be paid by the company. He answered, "he would never take a reward for what he thought his duty to do without one. And, as the run of our own cruise now again demanded a resting place, he agreed to convoy them thither, with this proviso in regard to his owners, that, if in his way to that port, he should chance to take a prize, unassisted by them, they should wave the usual claim of share, which otherways they might make, as being in company." To this they instantly consented. Accordingly, we took them in convoy, and so continued for seventeen days, being the time before we got into Lisbon. In this interim we saw various sails, who
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perceiving us so large a fleet, never waited even to know who we were; but taking advantage of the wind or the night, always got from us. For which reason our great appearance, as it was a safety to them, may be supposed some loss to us, in this part of the cruise. The captains, Field and D'Auvergne were very kind in supplying us with water, which we wanted; and we in return, afforded them every supply in our power. But as for presents (which, to speak justly to their generosity, were largely offered) Wr. Walker, to avoid all censure of receiving a reward, intirely refused them; except two pieces of handkerchiefs for his pocket, and one of muslin for neckcloths, which after he got them, they would not accept of payment. All other things which we had from them afterwards,

such

66 COMMODORE WALKER'S

such as arrack, &c. were regularly insisted on to be paid for at the full prices. When they came to Lisbon, they gave the commodore a copy of a letter to read, which they told him they had wrote home, in recommendation of him to their company's notice, for his late services and behaviour. But such is the backwardness of this gentleman in not advancing himself to the favour which often waits to take him by the hand, that when I asked him, "Why he never applied to that board, during all his his late necessities?" he answered, "What do I deserve from them for doing only my duty?" Yet as that public duty to his country was a private service to them; pity! that such bashfulness of asking a reward for his deservings should make the fault intirely his own; that no notice of this
action

action has been yet taken by such a set of gentlemen, whose generosity, known to much less actions in their service, wants no encomia or examples here.

We all got in safe to Lisbon. We here found that the Princess Amelia was condemned as incapable of service; and that the managers agents there, Messrs. Mawman and Macey, had bought another vessel in her place, and fitted her up in readiness for us, which we called by the same name. Our Prince George tender was here also; who, as was before apprehended, had sprung her mast in the chase, but was now repaired. We were detained some little time longer than was expected, in taking-in new provisions; for those we had were become now so very bad, we could not use them, having begun to stink
with

with us before the end of the first five weeks. Whereupon, a survey was made of them, and they were condemned as every way perished and unwholesome, and thrown into the river. We imagined we had other provisions ready in the Princess Amelia, as she was our store-ship; but were informed, that those provisions also were become so rotten and infectious, that under the power of the same agents, they had been publicly condemned; and by order of the magistrates of health carried at some distance to sea, to be thrown out there, lest of injuring the fish in the river Tagus. This was another circumstance of contrived management, at this time only imagined by us as a lucrative scheme in the agent who had been employed at Bristol; but will be hereafter

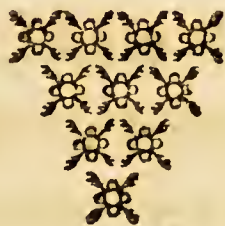
after opened to be part of the aforesaid plot of deeper policy.

It may be wondered at, how our own healths were so well preserved in such bad circumstances; but the apparent means made use of by providence, were the general cleanliness in frequent washing of our ships with vinegar (owing to Mr. Walker's own inspection of them for such purpose) and the immediate care taken of every man the first moment he shewed any signs of illness. To these we may add, besides the quantities of greens and fresh provisions carefully laid in at every opportunity of coming to port, the great plenty of turtle we found throughout our whole station in the midst of the sea; which, for the sweetness of their flesh and their eggs, are not inferior to those brought from the West Indies, though

though not of so large a size, the greatest here not weighing above half an hundred.

The method of taking them is this ; the creature always sleeps at the top of the water, at which time he lies motionless : we row to him in our boat, with as little noise as possible, lest of awaking him, by a sculler at our stern, as the strokes of the oars would make too great a sound in the water : for if he awake, he immediately strikes down and is irrecoverable to us. When we approach near him, a man stands at the head of the boat, with a long pole and hook at the head ; and putting it gently under him, turns him by a sudden rise of it on his back : in which situation he floats like a boat paddling, turning himself in a circle with his feet ; but has not the least further government

ment of himself, and cannot descend. Thus we must acknowledge our obligations to providence; who by its hand preserved us, and brought us through the designs traps laid by men, who plot against or sport with the lives of their fellow-creatures, in laying their schemes and evil inventions for gaining lucre and false happiness to themselves.



C H A P. IV.

The taking the Post Galley ; taking a register ship the Buen Consejo ; behaviour of the Spanish ladies ; a trifling story of a lap-dog and a monkey, yet with a moral ; the fleet's return to Lisbon.

OUR coming to Lisbon occasioned much enquiry concerning us among the merchants, upon seeing us so numerous a private fleet. Messrs. Mawman and Macey, a house of distinguished credit, were agents for the managers ; on them Mr. Walker had an unlimited credit. This and other recommendations gained us a respect in the place equal to what could be shewn to ships of any rank.

Mr.

Mr. Walker contrived here a correspondence, by which he every week had intelligence of every thing which was then doing in Cadiz-bay, of the ships there, and those expected home. This was executed by a spy, who plied over land from thence to Faro, which was a sea-port. For this purpose Mr. Walker bought here a small sloop, and added her to the fleet as a message-tender ; and calling her the Prince Edward, gave the command of her to Mr. Shaftoe, one of his lieutenants. The number of our ships were now six. This last tender he sent regularly once a week from Lisbon to Faro, and afterwards from our station, as often as she could go and return.

When we were victualled and all things provided for the seas, we set

out on the remaining half-part of our cruise, which was appointed to be in our former station, between Cape St. Vincent and Cape Cantin.

The pleasure of sailing in a fleet, tho' of more care and weight of duty to a commander, is unspeakably superior, in respect to all other officers, to that of being in a single ship. The very prospect of our comforts, the giving and repeating signals, the company of the lights at night are an amusement to the mind or business to fancy, that makes the scene undisturbed by accidents, pleasingly agreeable. Besides the diversions kept alive in the one ship or the other, form a continued circle of entertainment; which pleasure is not always so freely enjoyed within the stricter disciplines of
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the navy. Certainly no set of ships ever sailed on duty in more order and obedience to command, or in better temper with themselves, than we did upon this present cruise. In which we continued the whole remaining time, without one accident to be charged either to ill luck or ill conduct: so that the whole appeared more a party of pleasure than of duty or service. And as the business productive of success, which was very great as to the value of the prizes, was performed in a few actions, we shall not rule ourselves to an exact account, or division of the intervening time; it being passed in chasing and examining various ships of various countries, wherein nothing very material or interesting happened.

The first prize was a Dutchman, bound from Corunna to Cadiz, called

the Post-Galley. Her cargo consisting of warlike stores, we sent her into Lisbon, where she was legally condemned ; but her value did not much exceed seventeen hundred pounds.

Some few days following, we descried a large ship off Cape Cantin. Signal being made to chase, we came up with her, and perceived her a stout ship of twenty guns ; but she firing only one gun, struck to us before she thought we had time to make a return. She was a Spanish Register-ship, the Buen Consejo, bound from Cadiz to Buenos Ayres. By her bills of lading and invocies found on board, her value appeared to be upwards of sixty thousand pounds.

These Register-ships, like our East-India ones, are limited to a certain number under the direction of the king ; and as their voyage is to the
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South-seas, or the different Spanish settlements in the West-Indies trading thereto, they are reckoned the richest ships of all Spain. The captain and supercargo having signified to Mr. Walker, that they were willing to ransom her, he resolved for that purpose to carry her into Lisbon; and being a prize of such value all our ships escorted her.

Among the prisoners, were several ladies and persons of great wealth and some distinction, going to their foreign settlements, with whom we had some conference, so as to see their manners and dispositions; for in all the conquests we made under Mr. Walker, we made so many acquaintances with those we conquered, as we never failed to introduce ourselves to their esteem and friendship.

We have mentioned a good deal of the French manners. The Spanish address certainly does not exceed theirs in courtesy or ceremony ; yet it has as much civility and more natural ease. And as most persons who have seen both, are of my way of thinking in this particular, I may venture to say it has more agreeableness in it to an English palate, as it keeps up a dignity in the speaker, and looks more sincere. They seem to pay their politeness thro' respect to the person, to whom they think it due : whereas the French are ostentatiously lavish of theirs ; shewing the gift to come more from the fund of their own generosity, than any seeming apprehension of another's merits.

The ladies and some of the gentlemen, their husbands, desired as a favour,

vour, that they might not be removed out of their own ship. Mr. Walker granted their request, and ordered them the free use of all the wines, other necessaries, and every accommodation in the ship, as before; and at the same time sent his respects to them, that he would pay them a visit on board their own ship. This they imagined meant an intention in him of taking from them their things of best value; but when he came on board, his dress and attendants looking something above the rude idea they had conceived of an English sea-captain, they seemed in an astonished pleasure. However, some of the ladies, who had got their jewels, and other valuables packed up for him, by way of bribe for his mercy and civility, offered them to him. Mr. Walker, with

a smile asked them, if the ship had so many supercargoes to give an account of her effects? they replied, "these little riches had been their own, but now were certainly his." He then desired, "they might still look on them in the first light, assuring them, that his officers and men had received his express orders, not to take one single article of apparel or property of any person's in the ship, from the highest class to the lowest; that he was come only to pay the compliments of a visit, due to them; and hoped they were so easy in themselves as to make him happy in their company" I must mention that in the first proposals of articles between the managers, officers, and crew, the commodore insisted, that no cloaths or private ornaments, as watches, swords, rings, &c. should be taken as
plunder

plunder from any enemy whatever ; and that he should have it in his power at all and every time to say what should be deemed plunder, and what otherwise. This power in himself gave him liberty of exercising the natural promptings of his own disposition on these and the like occasions. —It may be said, that we have laboured in giving remarks of two of the most polite people of Europe, taken only from the middle class, *viz.* from those mostly concerned in trade. In the first place, I take my remarks only from the opportunities given me ; but in the next, I believe I shall find seconds to my opinion, that such are the best objects from whence to draw the general character of the whole. They are the part of the people most conversant in men and things, of a general education above the vulgar ;

and yet removed from the exact tutorship of art or fashion ; the politeness intimate to courts, being a lesson taught by policy in all governments alike ; and the motions of the vulgar generally ruled by their national prejudices, peculiar to all countries. However, we shall have done with remarking, and speak only the facts as they happened.

Their behaviour on this occasion of his generosity was above the common manner of expressing themselves obliged. They endeavoured at making it entertaining, with a familiar sincerity of shewing their love to him, as their benefactor. Thus they brought to him the various specimens of their wines, preserved fruits, &c. giving him an account of each sort and qualities ; as taking a pleasure in his becoming master of them.

them. They introduced their voices, lutes, and histories of themselves. In all of which they were so significantly entertaining, that they fully answered his request, in making him happy in their company. Mr. Walker then invited them on board his ship, where we must allow him some vanity in setting out the liberality of English entertainment to foreigners: and, leaving it to the imagination of the reader, shall say no more of it here, nor introduce it in any other more proper place.

The next morning after this Mr. Walker's first visit, the prize's boat came on board. We imagined something extraordinary had happened; when we were told, they brought a present for the commodore: we all crowded to the sides, where a present

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from one of the Spanish ladies was
produced of a favourite lap-dog.

*Parturiunt montes, et nascitur ridicu-
lus mus.*

Great promises our expectations
chouse :

A mountain labours, and is born a
mouse.

At least a dog not much bigger than
one.

The ladies of Spain have still a custom, which was once fashionable in England, of being particularly fond of the small spaniel breed of lap-dogs, which are doubtless very beautiful creatures in their kind; and each fair one has her number of favourites. Among the croud that were shewn Mr. Walker for their great beauty
and

and other perfections, was one in particular of exquisite shape and smallness, not being larger, tho' at its full growth, than to be hid between the palms of a person's hands. Having taken particular notice of this, as a curiosity in its kind, (more with design of pleasing its fair owner, who was likewise a beauty in her kind, than depriving her of any pleasure; but the best intended compliment may sometimes mistake its aim) the generous hearted mistress thinking it but a recompence for all his civilities, in her abundant complaisance, thought herself obliged in gratitude to send it to him as a present, tho' of more value than any other jewel in the ship; the interview of parting with it having been, as we were afterwards told, very affecting. The commodore could not but send

back great acknowledgments of the obligation ; and, as he imagined the young canine gentleman to be a little consumptive, he took particular care of his health in giving him goat's milk for breakfast, having a couple of goats a board. But in private life, as in courts, favourites seldom agree too near each other ; for having another favourite on board, a Chinese monkey of great humour and capacity, which had been given by some of the officers of the East-India men, the creature, whether out of envy at seeing such care taken of the other, or love of the little animal, the next day caught him up in his arms, at a time, when no body was in the cabin, and run with him up to the yard-arm ; where he sat, keeping him in great submission by boxing him in the ear, whenever he dared to murmur at his state,

state, and played a thousand antic tricks with him, to the laughter of the common men and pain of Mr. Walker, for fear of some fatal accident. The only hopes for its escape were, that he would throw it into the sea; and the men, seeing the commodore anxious for its preservation, proposed getting out the boat, in such case to save it; and were absolutely getting it over, when, after various inducements offered to the monkey, to intice him down with his new charge, at last a China bason of milk being brought, and ordered to be set in his view on the deck, immediately the man-imitating creature came down, and bringing safe his little play-fellow, set it to the bowl to drink. But the dog, whether thro' the effects of his former fright, or grieving, in the loss
of

of his more indulgent mistress, at the hard change of such treatment, who being herself unskilful in the art of rope-dancing, had never led him over such a dangerous tract; or whether hurt in one of the close hugs of affection, or reprimanding blows of the tutorizing monkey, or without any accounting for it at all, grew sullen and died in a day or two after.

It may be censured as trifling in a history of military actions to introduce a story of a dog and monkey. I have before mentioned, that I mean only a conversation with my friends. The great freedom and pleasing ease of which consist in a variety of subjects and lesser digressions in the midst of serious. As therefore I take a pleasure in company, if I have at any time in this narrative entertained them,

them, I hope to be favoured by their good-nature in this endeavour also. Besides as my intent is to give the character of my friend, the particular parts are often better gathered from the lower incidents of life than the greater.

The death of Alexander, for such our little hero was called, threw our commodore into much concern of thought what excuse to make to the unhappy mistress; especially, as she was in a few days to come on board, and would expect to have her former favourite introduced. Whatever some readers may think, I hope to be joined by others, in asserting it to be a point of great difficulty to manage. Mr. Walker held a consultation of the Spanish gentlemen aboard, who had seen the accident, all of whom owned its disaster very difficult of remedy, and beyond their capacities of relief.

relief. At length to put the living delinquent in the dead hero's place, was thought the only means of alleviating the grief that was known would flow ; for where a generous mind is raised to resentment, nothing so soon appeases it to forgiveness as putting the object of its anger within its power ; which should it here become a new favourite was also the surest way of forgetting the old. With this view Pug was sent a present in return, with a directed card to his new mistress, which was put into his hand as he entered the room, with these words in French : " I come to die if you decree it." All other faults being kept a secret, this raised on their side many arguments of enquiry about the meaning, which was too soon cleared up ; however, Pug was kindly

kindly received, and he immediately exerted his station of private tutor to the whole family of dogs ; and being very soon necessary in his office, particularly in the art of fleaing, grew into great favour. Our chief surgeon (who was the same gentleman, who was with us at the loss of the *Boscawen*) in his usual good humour, thought of a means of shewing a further compliment to the fair-one, in making up some part of her loss : whose beauty, by all report to him, was so deserving of being obliged, else I much doubt whether all this work of pacification had thus been studied. This was to have the skin stuffed : so ordering one of his young men to perform the office of skinning, the whole society of Spanish and English gentlemen took on themselves that of stuffing ; and the dead hero was in
 effigy

effigy set on his feet again, in all his wonted beauty and apparel. When the expected visit arrived, and the sad account was given of his death, he was brought to his mistress, and receiving kisses from her lips, of whose happiness, alas, he was not now sensible, was wetted with some drops from her beauteous eyes, now like a sky, o'er-swoln with rain. Mr. Walker soon saw, nothing would be so great a consolation to her for the loss of Alexander living as Alexander dead. She accepted him back with all the confessions of obligation, and said "She ever would be convinced of the humanity of the English, though in so small an instance, from the great respect paid to so pretty a little being."

However trifling the whole may be, it turned out a material benefit to the
gen-

gentleman we spoke of, our surgeon : for induced from the beauty and neat proportion of the limbs, he anatomized the remains, which seemed a piece of exquisite workmanship in his art. This being particularly admired by one of the principal Spanish merchants on board, a young gentleman ; our surgeon presented it to him, which so obliged him, that he took a very fine yellow diamond ring off his finger, and insisted on his wearing it : as the occasion of this, we are told with the smiles of some of the other gentlemen, that the young merchant was a professed lover of the beautiful fair-one. What tender use or introduction he made of them afterwards, we cannot say ; but as the acts of greatest moment often rise out of accidents of very trifling, and seeming distant concern, so

so, if I could with assurance say (what however for story's-sake, we will suppose) that such regard in him to his mistress's deceased favourite, raised in her a good opinion of his love to her, we shall think the death of Alexander planned by fate, and that the story of the dog and monkey has in the end a moral.

It was not the commodore's intent to have gone himself into Lisbon, or to have carried in the fleet thither; as by the accounts received from Faro, he expected some more of the like ships to sail from Cadiz. But when we came as far as was intended on our convoy, a direct storm forced us all in.

C H A P. V.

The disposing of our prisoners ; new intelligence from Faro, and Mr. Walker's policy thereon ; taking the *Nympha* ; account of the prisoners ; landing them at Belem ; a conspiracy to end the cruise, and the end thereof.

WHEN we came into Lisbon, the prisoners were immediately given up to our embassador, Sir Benjamin Keene and the consul there ; for by cartel settled between the English and Spaniards, all prisoners were to be returned to each party as soon as possible.

The commodore performed here a master-stroke of policy, of the French
 7 fort ;

fort; in which the subjects of that nation are so expert, that what we treat as a science, they have brought down by practice to an art or knack; for, having introduced the Spanish captain and supercargo to Messrs. Mawman and Macey, to treat of the ransom of the ship, the Spanish gentleman in consequence of that treaty, agreed to set out immediately for Cadiz to the India company there, giving great assurances of their expedition and intended return, in six weeks, with an order for the ransom. Mr. Walker, who had got new intelligence by his tender from his spy at Faro, to whom he had instantly sent on our return hither, "That two very rich register-ships, the St. George and Nympha, were then waiting in the Bay of Cadiz, ready to sail; but that information of our fleet

fleet being at sea, having reached their ears, they were afraid to go out." He told the captain and supercargo, "That if their return did not exceed the time mentioned, he would wait for them at Lisbon; for that, as he wanted water, and as his ships were foul, he had some matters to do to his fleet." Wisely judging, that the moment they at Cadiz were convinced, by the assurances of the aforesaid captain and supercargo, that his ships were laid up at Lisbon, they would seize the opportunity of running out. Accordingly, the day before they set off, he unbent all the sails in the whole squadron, struck the top-masts and yards, and made every seeming preparation of refitting, to the wonder and amazement of both officers and men, who thought

the orders very ill-timed, and were at a loss for the reason of them.

The Spanish captain, supercargo, and the rest of the gentlemen and ladies instantly set out for Cadiz, across the country, with their usual compliments of taking leave; not so much as the monkey left behind. Mr. Walker calculating the time, when the captain and supercargo would reach Cadiz, he the same morning in which he imagined them arrived there, made signals for the whole fleet to get up top-masts and yards, and to make all other necessary dispositions for immediate sailing. All which was compleated in less than six hours. Thus he again set sail, February 3, 1746-7, having concerned himself no more with the prize or ransom than in writing

writing a letter home to the managers with an account of the news; leaving the whole care and disposal of it to the present charge of the agents, Messrs. Mawman and Macey.

This sudden departure was as unexpected as the foregoing delay appeared unaccountable. But when we got to sea, the commodore made signal for all the other captains to come on board: he then informed them of his scheme and purpose, which were again soon communicated by them to the fleet, and gave a general satisfaction from the great probability of the success.

We had not been upwards of twenty-four hours in our station, before we discovered, February the ninth, a large sail to windward, to which the whole fleet gave chase. As there was little wind, and night was coming on,

*9 Feb
1746*

the commodore fitted out the Prince Edward tender with a number of men, and ordered her to row up to the chase; the barge also was hoisted out, with the first lieutenant and captain of marines, and sent after. We did not come up with her that night: in the morning she appeared about three leagues quite a-head. At last the tender and barge visibly gaining upon her, and our fleet keeping as much sail as we could, they surmised who we were, and she struck her colours without firing one gun.

She was one of the very ships we before spoke of, the *Nympha*, eight hundred tons, thirty-six guns, two hundred and sixty men. Her value above one hundred and sixty thousand pounds, having near one hundred and fifteen tons of quicksilver on board; for the event happened as we

ex-

expected. The Spaniards, on the above report of the captain and supercargo, made use of the opportunity, that seemed to favour them; and both ships, she and the St. George, sailed out immediately. The next morning after they sailed, they both fell in with the Jersey man of war, captain Hardy, to whom the Saint George struck: but the Nympha escaped from him, by flying into the arms of those who had the best right to her.

This circumstance has been lately related to some friends before Mr. Walker, who seemed to express a concern at his loss of the other ship, in her being so accidentally intercepted; as it was owing to his scheme she was brought out of port, and as therefore she ought to have fallen to his lot, the reward of his policy. His an-

was, "He was much better pleased that she happened into the hands she did; as she thereby made happy a gentleman well deserving her, and consequently many families; whereas had he got her, she had not prevented his present state." What the reason was of his so saying, I cannot determine; but it must point either to his own extravagance in spending it when got, or to his never getting it all.

Such a quantity of quicksilver to be transported to the West-Indies, may well authorize the question about the use of it. It has been a received opinion, still suspected by some people, that the Jesuits abroad have the art or secret of fixing it into pure silver. This certainly is a mistake, as in the first place, they do not appear to have any great notion of alchemy or the power of metals;

tals ; in the next, quicksilver is nearer allied to gold than silver, being of all bodies next in weight to the former ; and having by its constitution of parts, the softness of the first, it cannot, though fixed, be so altered in them as to attain the hardness and clear ring or sound of the other, without too great an alloy : so such fixation would fail of its purpose. The great use, as I have been informed, which they make of it is in collecting their gold, which in most parts of Mexico is lodged in an ore, and not so separately formed as in the sands of Africa and other places ; its fine particles being intimately mixed with its bed of coarser matter, so as not to be divisible from it by washing. They therefore put the ore into large tubs, and pouring on it a proper weight of

quicksilver, they stir them round together by sticks or engines of great violence; until the mercury, working itself into the pores of the ore, separates it minutely; and, whilst it abhors mixing with the earthy substances, it by a natural attraction draws, or gathers the gold into its own body, making an amalgama or kind of paste of the gold in itself; which, as the workmen then begin to wash off the lighter earthy matter, still settles to the bottom. Afterwards, by putting this on the fire, the quicksilver flies off, and the gold remains pure; which, if endeavoured to be forced in the fire in its first state, would demand so strong a heat, as instead of burning away the earth, would vitrify or turn it into glass. In which the gold would for ever mix, making it become a kind of stone;

no

no doubt very beautiful, as in the lapis lazuli, and which I should be very glad to see tried.

From the value of so large a quantity of quicksilver, which was, at the common market-price, worth upwards of sixty thousand pounds, we may judge the great wealth of the Spanish mines; when this rich commodity is only used as a drug or menstruum to their work, and is always lost in the fire. But though it has the power of making gold abroad, yet our managers have proved it to have no such power in Europe. —But of this in its place.

A whimsical surprize happened in the interview, as I may call it, between the Nympha and our ship. Some of the gentlemen and ladies on board, and many of the men, were the same before taken by us in the

former ship, who immediately on their arrival at Cadiz, put themselves on board either the St. George or Nympha, to save their passage to the West-Indies: thus we here again picked up our old acquaintances, who thought less of seeing us than any one friend or foe upon the seas; for certainly they did not know, in which character to place us, as we indeed were in a capacity of both. One of the men seeing themselves a second time so soon into our hands, said, "O good seignior Englishman! it is very comical indeed, you make as much haste to take us, as we make haste to be taken."

The commodore went also on board this prize, and the same complaisance, and ceremonies of civility were here again acted over. Of the gentlemen who were left on board
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the Spanish ship, the commodore took care to leave the young merchant among the list of those proper to take care of the ladies, which seemed to give no little pleasure to the former mistress of the now forgotten Alexander. Pug was again introduced to his old master, and the joy which several of the ladies expressed in seeing Mr. Walker with the seeming familiarity of friendship, that passed between them, caused much surprize and amazement in the by-standers, who were new passengers aboard: but as all were treated with like civility, they all grew equally easy in the acquaintanceship.

This prize also the commodore resolved to convey to the former one at Lisbon: for our cruise being near expired, the going home with her, and the returning to our station, would

have taken up the remaining time ; besides, Lisbon was, by the after orders of the managers, destined our port of discharge. Mr. Riddle being now pretty well recovered of his wounds, the commodore gave him the command of the prize ; and now again we became convoy to our own treasure, and steered away for Lisbon. Mr. Riddle on the eleventh of February, made signals of seeing the land ; and on the thirteenth, the passengers at their own desire, were all landed at Belem : whither, at their further request, the commodore and some of his officers attended, and accompanied them to the cathedral, which is a very antient and fine structure, as they said they were going to bespeak of an English saint there a more prosperous voyage against the next time of their putting to sea. In this cathedral,

dral, Catherine, queen to king Charles the second, lies buried ; to whom, she being canonized a saint, they prayed, that she would hinder the English (supposing her still to have an interest and authority over us) from intercepting them any more in their intended voyage.

The commodore took occasion afterwards at dinner, to remark, in an easy pleasantry, on the wrong policy of their countrymen intrusting the other ship under the tutelar safety of saint George, the peculiar saint of England ; as it was certain he would betray them to his own countrymen. To this they agreed, as being very short-sighted in them ; which made way for the conclusion, that if so, those statesmen in heaven have yet their separate interests in this world. Alas ! to consider the insults given
to

to the Deity in the misusings of their reason, which we ourselves have seen in this little circle of things, among people under a tyrannic government of religion, is productive of fear; lest, as their country's senses come in time to themselves, they may misdoubt the whole system. For in it, as by individuals, if a man be found to have a trick of telling lies, he can hardly find faith in truth ever after.

15 Feb On the fifteenth, captain Riddle
1746-7 departed with the prize to Lisbon, taking letters from the commodore to be delivered to the agents there; and we went back to our station. But on the twenty-second, the commodore drawing again back towards land, the next day, we being about three leagues distant from the rock of Lisbon, Mr. Macey, one of the agents, came on board.

board to congratulate the commodore on his sending in the late prize ; or rather by appointment, as we supposed from the aforesaid letters, to give him intelligence, thro' some directions the commodore had sent by Mr. Riddle for getting the same. He returned the same evening ; and we again bore away to sea. Between this and the twenty-eighth we chased several English privateers, a king's sloop, and some Dutch and Swedish ships, all whom we brought-to ; but the time was not yet arrived for the prize expected by the commodore to come in view ; and the cruise being near an end, he for such purpose endeavoured to spin it out as long as he could, and gave assurances of the great probability of his expectations, from certain intelligence which he had received. The men and most

of the officers, all who now thought their fortune sent before them to Lisbon, desirous of following it, argued the cruise to be now at an end; reckoning from the time of their first departure from England: but as the articles expressed the eight months cruise to mean being at sea, the commodore insisted that the time in harbour was not to be reckoned as part, but to be deducted from the whole; which carried on the time of the cruise still farther. However, on the ninth of March, being informed of a design in the men the next day to give three cheers from each of the ships, as ending the cruise, he sent word to the captains of each ship to secure their arms, and also sent orders wrote by himself, to be read publicly in every ship. The men were thus kept to their duty, more out of awe than inclination.

7 Mar
1766-7

clination; for the day after this, the captain of the Duke sent their master in irons aboard us, being suspected of cutting the gun-tackles and britchings, in a late gale of wind; and the next day, the Fredrick sent their first and second lieutenants, also prisoners, and seven men, for insisting in a mutinous manner on breaking up the cruise. These were all detained for trial, and on the fifteenth a court-martial was held of all the captains on the two lieutenants; one of whom was broke, but on petition restored; and the men also, tho' on trial found guilty, were forgiven: as now in fact by all consent the cruise grew near an end, and the commodore said, he wished to end it without having one dissatisfied man in the fleet. And now, the twenty-fifth of March one thousand seven hundred and forty-seven arrived,
at

15th Mar
1746

25 Mar
1747

at which time the cruise ended according to the commodore's own computation; when he broke it up, the men all in health and high spirits; and tho' glad of its being ended, the joy was in the notion of our having had enough of fortune; and thus we set sail for Lisbon.

When we came into Lisbon, we found there all our Spanish acquaintances. By some delay in the cartel, they had not been sent forward so soon as the former time. They came amongst several of the town to congratulate us on our arrival; and the ladies boasted to us, in return for our former jokes, of their superior interest with our English queen Catharine, who had forbid our intercepting any more of their ships.

We will just send them off to Spain, and then conclude. During the short
time

time of their stay, we afterwards had several mutual invitations and parties of pleasure. They made one grand entertainment for us in particular, to which were invited several Portuguese noblemen and merchants, our own agents and others; we had musick and a ball. The Spanish ladies and gentlemen drest themselves out in their richest habits and jewels, on purpose of making a public acknowledgment of them to Mr. Walker. The captain and supercargo of the *Buen Consejo* were also there, returned from their negotiation from Spain; and in great pleasantry and lively satire of the company, were called the two intelligencers of the Royal Family. This public respect from our enemies did the commodore some compliment in the place. They next day took leave, which hindered the

the civility being returned, making great assurances of their endeavours for life, to cultivate the natural good opinion, they said, ought for mutual interest to exist between their nation and ours ; and lamented the French policy, which could so artfully draw a curtain of fictitious story-painting (as they termed it) across the views of both countries ; which, they said, they hoped in time would be removed.

A few weeks after, a diamond ring was sent to the commodore at Lisbon, from some of the public officers of the court of Spain, in the direction of their Register-fleet. It was computed at about thirty moidores value ; but the motto was the intended payment of their respect, couched within the outward present of a ring ; which Mr. Walker has forbid me to transcribe. And, after the peace, some
English.

English and Irish gentlemen, who were in the present fleet under Mr. Walker, having occasion to go to Spain, particularly Mr. Kennaway our surgeon-general, before spoke of, and others, asked letters of recommendation from him to some houses there, whose directions these grateful people had put into his hand. The civil reception they met with, the good offices shewn to such his letters are too much to mention: but to speak as much to the purpose in fewer words, each person so recommended made fortunes amongst them, except Mr. Kennaway, whose good understanding and boldness of speech always stood in his way of preferment especially in a popish country. If our readers from these returns of favours draw a supposition how easy a right understanding may be cultivated between

tween that nation and ourselves; these particulars may appear less tedious, and the consideration of them will arise to public utility.

The *Nympha* was also put into the hands of Messieurs Mawman and Macey; and thus our cruise of eight-months ended, with taking four prizes, then valued at a reasonable estimation, greatly upwards of two hundred and twenty thousand pounds, without the loss of one man killed.

CRUISE

C R U I S E II.

1747

The ROYAL FAMILY

Private Ships of War.

C H A P. VI.

The fitting out the fleet ; the behaviour of the men ; change of officers ; the wreck of a Lisbon packet ; a new dispute and story in religion ; the compliment of the sea-men to the Portuguse court ; a strange exorcism, or casting out of a devil.

BY the former articles of agreement with the managers, the last cruise was to have ended at the port of London ; yet as they had resolved upon sending out the same ships on a second cruise, it was thought

thought most prudent to refit them at Lisbon ; as thereby, being nearer their station, less time would be lost, and especially as several conveniences could be had there cheaper and easier than at London. The croud also of English and Irish vessels, always trafficking there, afford great numbers of men, who have no need of secreting themselves for fear of being pressed : for there never was but one instance of a press at Lisbon for English seamen, within the time of Mr. Walker's knowledge of the place ; even this was occasioned by some cause of very great emergency, and had given such umbrage to the Portuguese court, as to put the expectation of another past all fear.

However, though all these advantages may be a proof of the good policy of the managers, Mr. Walker

foreſaw one great inconvenience, as to the danger of deſertion, by the men being ſet adrift in a foreign port ; which they at home did not think of, at leaſt the remedy and care of it lay intirely upon him. And therefore, when the ſhips were brought into the Tagus, and were ſafely moored and unrigged (which was done in leſs than three hours, to the ſurprize of the whole town) he went on board each of them ; and returning thanks to the ſeveral crews, in behalf of themſelves and owners, for their faithful ſervices, told them, “ that the managers, upon the account of the late ſucceſs, had agreed upon fitting the fleet out on a ſecond cruize, and had thought proper to end the preſent one there, that the ſhips might be more ready in proceeding to ſea, and be ſooner at their ſtation : that

he hoped most of them, who approved of him, as a commander, would continue with him in the service; that such of them as would again enter and help in equipping the fleet, should, besides their entrance-money, be put on regular wages; that such who chose to be on shore should be supplied with further monies on account, during the time of their stay; and that they who desired to go home, should be sent away in one of the vessels, at the expence of the owners: But that he asked one favour of them as British subjects, that none would think of idly staying there, or going into the service of any other country but their own; as they now were all men of property, and such desertion would be a forfeiture of it."

Every ship's crew in general declared their approbation of his command;

mand ; and said they would go with him so long as his ship could swim, such was their general phrase. This was more than was expected. Accordingly, after regaling themselves a few days a-shore, when Messrs. Mawman and Macey had got ready the proper articles (which they themselves signed in behalf of the managers, as their agents) above two thirds of the men entered themselves for another eight month's cruise ; and every thing was put forward for the sea with the greatest expedition. A sufficient number of them took the wages, and set to work upon equipping the ships. A few indeed of the men who had entered, following some idle ones who had not, after selling their shares of the prizes, went off to the Spaniards, mostly seduced by some emissaries belonging to that

G 2

court,

court, who for such purpose usually ply at Lisbon. Whereupon, Mr. Walker, as he had his spies ready set fearing the occasion, immediately applied to Sir Benjamin Keen, who readily assisted in getting an order for apprehending them : by which they were brought back, and secured in the trunk or prison. They only who had entered and received the advance money, and afterwards deserted, were kept prisoners until the time of our sailing ; and those who had not, Mr. Walker took care to see embarked for England by the first opportunity. This conduct has been maliciously mis-told, to the discredit both of the managers and Mr. Walker, by one Goddard, an agent for the people. Of which more shall be said hereafter. As to the remainder, being upwards of eight hundred men,

no

no such class of people ever behaved better, remarkable for cleanliness and an honest spirit. They drest in a uniform cockade, to distinguish themselves ; and the whole time of their refitting, which was near three months, not a complaint was made against them, not a broil or accident happened, except a dispute, which one of our officers had, in point of religion, with some popish priests ; and which had like to have sent him to the inquisition, as shall be hereafter related, for the purpose more of shewing the cause of such censure, than any great entertainment in the matter itself : but we must first mention some other circumstances which happened.

Captain Bromedge of the Prince Frederick, and captain Green of the Prince George, not chusing to continue the sea any longer, as they

G 3

thought

thought they had already made a sufficiency for life ; and Mr. Shaftoe, being offered the command of a trading vessel belonging to the Portuguese ; they severally desired to lay down their commissions ; and as Mr. Walker had an intire power of making or displacing all officers under his command, he removed captain Dottin, who had given many proofs of his good capacity, from the Duke into the Prince Frederick ; captain Denham from the Princess Amelia into the Duke ; and gave Mr. Riddle, the gentleman who had so bravely distinguished himself in cutting out the vessel from Saffia-bay, the command of the Princess Amelia ; and Mr. Davidson, one of his lieutenants, the command of the Prince George ; and Mr. Hamilton, another of his lieutenants, the command of the Prince

Prince Edward; and preferred the lieutenants of the other ships, and several of the midshipmen, according to their seniority and merit. Numbers also of young gentlemen were sent from England, with letters of recommendation from their friends to Mr. Walker, for commissions, and as volunteers and midshipmen. Out of these all other vacancies were filled up. He then sent home for new letters of marque for each of the ships, who were thus given new commanders; whereby also the Prince George tender now ranked with the fleet, as a cruising ship. Which new commissions were all regularly sent back to him, in the names of the above gentlemen. The Prince Edward remained in her former station and duty as an intelligence boat or tender, for transporting stores

from one ship to another ; which accustomed use of her the said ingenious Mr. Goddard has endeavoured to represent to the legislature, as a piratical act in the managers, and Mr. Walker, for introducing her into the fleet without a commission. So weak are tales which envy or malice will often tell to indulge their own spleen or intentions !

The allowance agreed to by the managers for the men out of the prize-money, was ten moidores each, including their entrance-money. This not being sufficient for a three months stay, Mr. Walker, whose credit was now also established with the agents on his own footing, to avoid sending home to alter instructions, took up sums, on his own account, as the men wanted more money ; and so lent it to them, taking their notes or
re-

receipts for the same. By this means he knew their spendings, and being thereby a kind of check on them, almost fixed them to an allowance. This was a great good to the men, an ease and benefit to the managers, but a loss to himself.—Of which in its place.

As to our provisions, the managers at home engaged to send them to us from England, by the time calculated, that the fleet would be ready for the sea : but they not coming according to their own promises, and after our depending on them so long, that the delay threatened a greater loss than the value of them, the agents thought it best to buy provisions at Lisbon, sufficient for four months, as we could not venture to sea with a less quantity, and as we should return in that time for those from England. This was done, and

most of the provisions put on board, when a few days before we were ready to sail, the two transports with eight months provisions arrived from England, dearer and worse than what we bought at Lisbon. We then took in our full complement from the English stores, intending at the above expiration, to put in again to Lisbon for the remainder.

This expence so greatly swelling the charges at Lisbon, has been ill-naturally set down by public report to the bad oeconomy of Mr. Walker ; but is a subject which can be greatly enlarged on, to his exoneration.

It may be asked, what became of the negociation of the Spanish captain and supercargo, relating to the ransom of the Buen Consejo ? or how the prizes were disposed of ? This was at present no business of ours, but of the managers : ours being
only

only to take prizes, theirs to dispose of them as well as they could.

During the time of our refitting, an English packet-boat, the King George, struck in going over the bar, and was lost near the wooden-fort on the south side. As we then were lying below the castle of Belem, we had immediate opportunity of seeing her distress. The commodore quickly sent the Prince Edward tender, and four of our boats well-manned, to her assistance. They were just in time to save all the people, the mail, some valuables, and all the money, to a very considerable sum. But here a catastrophe happened: poor Cabel, the witty conductor of the plot of getting the men from the Exeter privateers for the Boscawen and other ships at Dartmouth, in saving the money from the packet, let a little part of it fall into his own pockets.

He certainly deserved some reward for his brisk agility in preserving it : but, alas ! the world will allow no rewards but what come from its own giving : self-rewards are thought to be taking that power out of its hands, and are therefore often punished as a theft. 'Tis therefore I imagine the philosophers allowed one thing only to be its own reward, namely virtue ; because it is generally left unrewarded by the world. This affair having been found out by a quarrel in the distribution ; in which were also involved an officer and two other men, the commodore first collected the money, to the amount of about fifty pounds, and sent it to the captain of the packet ; and at the same time having secured his pardon for the delinquents, he dismissed them with disgrace. Indeed they all desired leave to withdraw : for though
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it may appear wonderful to tell, the crime was universally ^{ex}disclaimed against by our whole crews. To such a regularity of mind had the regularity of action at last brought the whole!

The affair, which happened in a dispute about religion, is this : There is an assembly of priests very near Lisbon, several of them Irish, empowered by public contributions to give cloaths and money to all whom they can gain, as converts from any state of heresy to the doctrines of their own church. Hither some of our crew in frolic went, to be white washed, as the phrase is amongst them for this new inward and outward cloathing. But they, turning truants to the new doctrine, and coming back to us again, gave such a whimsical description of the method in which the priests treated them, that it raised the desire of Mr. Kennaway, our

our surgeon (a gentleman we before spoke of as a man of a lively turn of wit and expression) to go see the ceremony and manner. Accordingly, he dressed himself in a common jacket, and taking some of the men with him, as comrades, he set out on the new pilgrimage. He told them, "if he accepted their doctrine, he would accept their cloathing; but had honour not to wear their livery, unless he entered truly into their service." This introduction, having an appearance of well meaning, was greatly applauded by the reverend fathers. But, alas! he made another discovery to them, a little more astonishing: which was, "that he had no religion at all; and so begged them to begin with him from the first, in a regular course of instruction." This was but meer humour in him;

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his

his father having originally intended him for a clergyman, and versed him well in texts of scripture ; sufficient, if not to fix the grounds of any religion, to make him a disputant in all. It had the effect he intended, by putting them to a confusion how to proceed with him in a general plan ; the priests of the Romish persuasion being observed to be more industrious of finding arguments in defence of their own particular church, against the various systems set up in opposition to their political schemes or designs, and in support of forms and ceremonies, than in comprehending and explaining any connected doctrine of reason and sense, instructive to a pure understanding.

I shall not enter into any discussion of their several propositions and arguments, questions and answers ; but
shall

shall under favour relate one of his stories, as he told it to the priests, by way of example to one of his arguments; because I think it has in it a great deal of good humour and good sense; in all probability, the ready invention of his own brain.

“There were, says he, a Romish monk, a Russian priest, a Presbyterian, a Quaker, a Moravian methodist, and a poor transported Protestant clergyman, all in one ship, going a voyage to the West-Indies; but being bound to Africa to take in slaves, they were met by a storm, and wrecked much lower down the coasts than where the trade generally reached to. The black king of the place received them into his kingdom with great civility, and being all white men and calling themselves each by the common name of christian, he imagined

gined them all the same people, and provided for them in places about him. When they were got into employment, and had learned the language of the country, they each offered to convert him and his people to the true religion. Upon which, he ordered a certain day to be fixed, to hear them argue on the new doctrine. The monk begun; but before he had got to the third sentence, *that's a lie*, cries the Russian priest, interrupting him. The black prince started at the contradiction: however, they went on in opposing each other, very loud and angry, till at last the Presbyterian took up the cudgels, and swore *that they both were sons of the whore of Babylon*. "Hey day! says the prince, *another division among you?*" When the Moravian, fetching many groans, as made his majesty and the whole court

court believe him in a fit of the gripes, brought forth, *How wrathfully is my inward spirit moved at such diabolical preachings of this Presbyterian* : for he agreed (he said) with the two foregoing churches in all their stratagems, though he had found out a new light for performing them. Upon this the Quaker, also moved by passion, breaks out : *Thou canting scoundrel ! thou pretend'st to a new light who art for leading other people in the dark !* The jargon then grew more promiscuous, to the great confusion of the royal judgment. But the king, whilst the rest were engaged in the dispute, at last spoke aside to the Protestant (who had not yet opened his mouth) desiring him to take himself and his brethren along with him out of his dominions, lest they should mention a word of this religion

gion to his people. O please your majesty, says the clergyman, *though all these christians be in the wrong, yet I alone am in the right; and can shew your majesty and people the only true doctrine, which by my deportment you see is peace. These people are no other than different sects sprung from me or different opinions of one belief.* “If that be the case, replies the king, I must insist on your immediate departure: for I fear your doctrine admits of so many contradicting opinions, you are not well assured of it yourself; at least it is too dangerous a one to be introduced amongst my people, all of whom, I thank God, now live in brotherly union and affection.” The king then put them together in a bark, and judging the English priest the most temperate of the whole, he put the rudder into his hand, to carry them safe to some port.

port. Thus the true doctrine is denied gaining ground in the world, by the various contradictions of the several teachers of it.

This story being told with great force of application, and all the advantages of a peculiar dialect to the several persons of the drama (at which merit we do not pretend in the writing) made the assembly of ghostly fathers so very angry at one of the poor natural children of sense, that where they certainly might have been informed they lost the moral. So much does prejudice or enthusiasm blind reason's eyes!--- Upon the whole, he had too much power both of reason and wit to make it an equal contention. Where reason had scope for an advantage, he pushed her against them, generally so well supported by wit, that where they should have embraced

braced information, they only grew passionate; damned him for an heretic, an unbeliever, and offspring of the devil.

Had he stopped here, all would have been well; but his wit out-run his prudence. In short, he so provoked them by advancing plain sense against mystery, that, when they found their whole superstructure overturned from off the foundation on which they had built it, they looked on him as an agent from the devil, and, calling him a blasphemer, absolutely took him into custody, and he was especially detained.

The rest of his companions returned home, with a poor account of their expedition, to the commodore; who next day went to Sir Benjamin Keene, and found that the order of priests had instantly made complaint of the affair to the patriarch. He is the
highest

highest priest in power, next the pope in all the Christian world; having been instituted by the king in direct opposition to the papal authority, on account of some political quarrel with that chair, who as politically soon made it up; for it is said the payment for indulgencies alone granted to this country in the time of Lent, for eating eggs, &c. brings into that see upwards of an hundred thousand pounds sterling each year. However, though the pope is again acknowledged supreme, this patriarch still holds up his first created grandeur, and is served by bishops on the knee. Their application to him was for leave to deliver over the heretic sailor to the inquisition; and it was believed he would be given up to that resentment, contrary to custom, tho' not precedent, of meddling with English

lish protestants. But the matter being called before the king for his consent or approbation (as it was of a foreign nature) his majesty declared “that the English subjects were free to enjoy their own way of thinking,” and ordered him to be released.

Thus Mr. Kennaway for this time got off unhurt. I have mentioned that he was the only gentleman, ~~who~~, of those going to Spain with recommendations from Mr. Walker, who was obliged to return before he had compleated his purpose of making a fortune amongst them, which happened on account of a like accident to this, in visiting a friend of his, an English captain of a ship, in a fit of illness; round whom he found a gathered heap of priests torturing the poor sick man's brains on all the various racks of extortion. With them

them he could not help taking up the argument, and managed it against them so much to the recovery of his friend's senses, as to have them all dismissed the house. On this a complaint having been made to the inquisition, the governor of the place, with whom he had acquired a most friendly intimacy, sent him a letter with great privacy, wishing him a good journey, and expressing "how sorry he was that their place or climate was too hot for his English constitution:" on which he took the hint, and made his escape. It is therefore very dangerous to venture at any church-reformation in those countries.

But to shew the spirit of our men on the above occasion, and in what a rank they rated themselves, I must mention a whimsical instance of their politeness. The Portugal court in
this

this late order had so much obliged them, that, as the accident happened a little before we were ready for sailing, all the crews went in a body, to the number of upwards of eight hundred, drest neatly in new cockades, with musick playing before them to the palace-gates, to thank the king for his royal interposition in their favour; and being by order let into an inner-court, the queen and prince came publickly to an open balcony, and received from them three cheers of thanks with very seeming pleasure. This was done without the previous knowledge of the commodore, who the next day went to a particular nobleman at court, to whom he had the honour of being known, to excuse it to the king. His majesty assured him by the nobleman, he took it in its true light of a civility;

lily; and as he was then indisposed, (for he was terribly afflicted with the palsy, being as to all use of his limbs, quite dead on one side by it) desired Mr. Walker might be introduced to him on another day. But as the time fixed for our departure would not admit of a second visit, Mr. Walker was obliged to postpone that ceremony of honour intended him, till another opportunity. His majesty thereupon sent out to him his good wishes for a prosperous and successful cruise.

We may suppose a great deal of the indulgence shewn in this late affair by the court, was owing to the active interest Mr. Walker made on the occasion, through Sir Benjamin Keene and some Portuguese noblemen, who had visited him during the time of our refitting, which has fixed

no little or invaluable privilege to the English subjects.

When the ships were equipped, several Portuguese companies came on board to see them ; for as to neatness and order, nothing of the kind could be superior. Mr. Walker was also particularly honoured in the acquaintance of the duke of Hamilton, who then was at Lisbon for his health. His grace frequently took the pleasures of the water ; at which times, during our refitting, Mr. Walker often took the opportunity of carrying his grace in his own barge, attended by others with music, &c. We have heard that Mr. Walker has at home been censured for an elegance in his frequent entertainments. I will own them beyond the usual rank of his brother sea-captains ; but if I may have leave to interpose my own judgment, what I

always admitted as elegant and a compliment to the person invited, I could never censure as extravagant. He was always happy in the notice of people of fashion, and no wonder if others, who envied him their company, invent something to find fault with. However, the money he spent was solely his own; and the greatest entertainment he made was on the occasion of our being compleatly equipped, when his grace of Hamilton dined on board: Mr. Walker had five barges lying at the shore to receive him. As he was upon the water, he was saluted by two of our king's ships, which were then lying in the river, and by all the ships of our own fleet, as he passed them. The salutes were with the small arms and manning of the ships; for, by his Portuguese majesty's orders, no great guns are allowed to be fired
above

above the castle of Belem. When the duke came in prospect of the King George, we appeared with only our common ensign, jack, and pennant flying; but as he drew near, the men being placed all over the several parts of her on the stays, yards, bowsprit, shrouds, and gunnels, with the different and various colours of all the maritime nations of the world rolled up in their hands, at the beat of a drum let them all fly in an instant; which hid the ship in a sudden metamorphosis, as in an heap of painted waves, and made an appearance in the transition very beautiful and striking. At which his grace expressed a pleasure that would have complimented a performance of greater merit; nor was his politeness less expressive as to other parts of the entertainment.

If it may not be thought too tedious a delay to stop the reader for an account of a very odd and strange exorcism, or casting out of a devil, which we were witnesses to, we will give a description of it for its novelty.

It may be asked, why so many of our remarks concerning these countries are touching religion? We answer, that in those Romish countries of Europe, it is the chief thing attracts notice; other customs and manners being much the same as with us. Indeed it is the most useful characteristic to be remarked to our countrymen, as in our superiority to it chiefly consists our superiority over them. We shall therefore tell it very shortly.

Mr. Walker attended his grace of Hamilton, in a tour or party of pleasure, about twenty-five or
thirty

thirty miles from Lisbon, to Maffra and Sentrin : at the first of which places, is the greatest and most beautiful palace of modern architecture in the known world, being a palace, convent, and church, all in one, built of white marble, highly polished on the inside, and reckoned to have cost upwards of ten millions sterling. At the last, is another of extream Gothic antiquity, and esteemed a work of equal curiosity of its kind, having been built by the Moors when they were in possession of the country. In which is a large hall of great extent, wherein are some hundreds of marble pillars, through which they used to perform their Moorish dances. The duke, after taking an attentive review of both these structures, and their several curiosities, returned to Lisbon. Mr.

Walker and some of his company went forward to Calcavello, where was a priest famous for casting out devils ; we were observers of the ceremony, it being performed in a public church. The subject he worked on was a young woman, who in one sense was no impostress, as she certainly imagined herself inwardly possessed with an evil demon. But how the spirit came there was as certainly owing to the prepossessions of the priest himself, who purposely terrified the poor creature into a belief of it.

The occasion was this : a family in the place being superstitiously affected at some accidents happening in the house, imagined it possessed with a devil, and sent for a priest to turn the devil out. The priest searching the house for him, at last found him in the maid-servant. She, naturally

turally alarmed thereat, and frightened to a degree of terror, which reaches near the borders of frenzy, could not help feeling, what he said he saw and conversed with in her; and at this operation, to which she was publickly brought, it was he saw and spoke to the devil in her, not she who complained; he, with sudden startings, frequently crying out, that the devil was now here in her, now there. Then he made pretences of whispering him; whilst at every word or touch, the poor terrified creature shuddering in belief, shrieked with fear; or scared from her senses, dropt into swoons, or fell into fits or agonies of laughing, weeping, or convulsed insensibility. All which was beheld with admiration by the crowd, as the violent tearings and workings of the spirit. When she re-

covered from the fit, he was ready to throw her, still frightened and trembling, into another; till at last, judging by her passions (of which he seemed a cunning master, and in which his whole secret appeared to us to consist) when was the proper time to produce the devil, he pulled him, as he said, with a roar out of her mouth, and saw him fly away, being the only man in the company who did. The poor girl, satisfied that the spirit was gone, began to recover; but was so weak and enfeebled, that I dare say she took a woman's full time in such re-establishment of herself after this her delivery. The priest was thought to have done a great work, and was almost worshipped by the believing multitude, as having performed an apostolic miracle. In which pretence he run no risque of being detected of imposture;

posture; for if he had drove his patient into madness, he had still been safe from the imputation, or even supposition of such practice; as the madness would have been attributed to the great power the devil had over her, which again would have been ascribed to her own sin.

The cheat was so very palpable to us, that I cannot say whether we were moved more with anger at the villany of the pretending priest, or pity at the blinded belief of the by-standing people. But in the doubt where to fix, we soon dropt our passions, and recalled our thoughts to a consideration of ourselves in thanks to God, who had brought us into this world under his happier dispensation, or light of reason. The prospect of our enlightened country appeared before us; and we saw what we hope each individual in it will believe, that

a British peasant, born to liberty of mind, as well as person, is, in his own state, a more noble existence of man than the rich potentates of those countries, whose minds have submitted from their youth to have the chains and shackles of prejudice and superstition put upon them, and which they must ever after wear and drag on in old age, as the slaves of priestly imposition, and of its associate, tyranny ; for the loss of the mind's freedom is the certain consequence of the general loss of liberty. Hence let every human being of Britain know, how great a treasure they have to defend in their own country : for should we know its loss, the forfeiture of life would appear an easy price of repurchasing that natural right of our existence, to hand it down a blessing to posterity ; which they have also a further right in, as we received it from our fathers.

C H A P. VII.

The entire loss of the Prince Edward tender. Taking the St. Juan Baptista. An account of the vice-roy on board. Taking two Spanish settees. And the engagement with the Glorioso, a Spanish man of war. And our return to Lisbon.

FRIDAY, July the 10th 1747, *1747 July*
O. S. the commodore made signal to weigh. Our fleet were

Private Ships of War.

The King George.

Prince Frederick.

Duke.

Princess Amelia.

Prince George.

Prince Edward Tender.

Commodore.

Edward Dottin.

Rob. Denham.

Andrew Riddle.

Fr. Davidson.

Fred. Hamilton.

} Cpts.

in the whole one hundred and fourteen carriage guns, besides swivels, and a compleat thousand men. Next day

day we proceeded to our station, which was to cruise between Cape Cantin on the Barbary coast, and Cape St. Mary's on the Portugueze.

1747
July 13

But almost as soon as we got to our station, a fatal accident happened the Prince Edward tender; for on the thirteenth, having the day before seen a large fleet of ships to the number of twenty, and being in close chace of them, as she crouded sail after us, we saw her on a sudden reel strangely in the water, and then founder stern foremost, contrary to all other ships in sinking, as they generally go down by the head. All the boats were 'got out as soon as possible; but notwithstanding every assistance, the only persons saved were Mr. Hamilton and two men, who kept themselves above water by their own swimming, till the boats got to them; all the rest perished.

rished to about ten. Surprizing it is to think how deficient our common seamen in general are in that exercise, so very essential to their profession! This sad catastrophe was occasioned by her mainmast starting out of the step in which it was placed, not having had sufficient hold thereof; for by the straining of it in crouding sail, the heel slipt out, and then the mast again plunging downwards by the weight of the shrouds and sails upon it, run through her bottom, and sunk her instantly; the weight of the mast slipping backwards, sending her down by the stern as before described. The ships we were in chace of proved to be a fleet of Dutchmen, under convoy of two men of war of sixty guns each, from Malaga to Lisbon.

Watching.

7 Augⁿ
 1764

Watching in our station about 12
 o'clock at noon, August the ninth,
 wind N. N. E. Cape Spartel bearing
 E. by N. distant about eight leagues,
 our ship was all on a sudden becalm-
 ed, and as it were, struck motionless.
 Every ship also, as they came up
 one after another, having the wind
 with them to the spot where we lay
 becalmed, the moment they reached
 us, dropt their sails, and there we all
 lay as in a regular line of battle. As
 not a ruffle moved along the surface,
 the sea became an intire mirror, and
 so continued most of the next day;
 which, though a scene of surprizing
 beauty from the stillness of the whole,
 and the clear reflection of the ships
 and their breathless pennants in the
 water, yet the time appeared tedious
 even to an irksomeness, and our own
 silence

silence at the occasion seemed to join the sleep of nature. The very music lost its sweetness and grew insipid, and every attempt in it to sprightliness in power failed; which shews us the unhappiness of an inactive state, and that man is formed to be employed. When the wind sprung up, a transport in us rose with it at our release from inactivity, as at being set free from an imprisonment.

At this time we struck a dolphin, which was not usual here, it being always in pursuit of the flying fish, who mostly frequent the Mediterranean and West-Indies; and who, to avoid him, will often light upon the decks of ships. The dolphin as it dies changes to a thousand varying colours of exquisite fire and beauty. From its boldness or familiarity in following ships, the old fable of

of its great love to mankind may have taken rise : but as painters in the tradition of its figure which they have handed down to us, seem to have mistaken its shape, describing it more like the seal, dog-headed and high-backed (whereas it is shaped most like the salmon, only longer and thinner) we may justly conclude the name has been misused or wrong applied. Some people conjecture, that the fish meant by the dolphin is the porpoise, which species is equally familiar, and will follow a ship in great numbers for several days ; and which, from its roll or play in the water, always appears curved, though a straight fish in itself : besides, the dolphin is of delicate flavour and very wholesome, which the others are not. This seems also to corroborate the above supposition ; for, to my best recollection,

tion, we have never heard of the ancients eating the dolphin, and they seemed to search the earth, air, and seas for delicacies, with equal skill as the moderns. But what most of all favours the conjecture is, that the true dolphin is seldom seen in the Mediterranean, whereas the porpoises roll there in great numbers.

On the night of the seventeenth, ^{17 Aug} the Prince George tender did not ^{17/5} answer the false fires made from the rest of the fleet, and being missing the next morning and the succeeding days, we imagined that through some distress, she had turned back, or put into port. This was the greater loss to us on account of the former accident to the Prince Edward, as we had in frequent services experienced the use of these small tenders.

On

20 Aug^r 1747 On the twentieth, about ten in the morning, in sight of the Barbary coast, we saw a strange sail to leeward, and made signals for chasing: but there being little or no wind, we gained on her very slowly all that day. In the evening, we hoisted out the barge and yawl, and sent them after her, lest she should alter her course in the night: so did the Prince Frederick and the Duke theirs. At five in the evening our yawl returned, not being able to keep ahead of the ship: we were still out of reach of the chase, but at eight the barges got up with her, when she fired two shots at them, which they returned with their small-arms; but in an hour after, we lost sight both of our barges and the chase, they bearing W. S. W. about two miles distance; for now the wind freshened,
and

and the weather grew cloudy. Violent lightnings also came on, so as frequently to set the whole air at once in a flash of fire. At other times we saw the lightning at some distance pour down from the skies in pointed streams of fire, and the claps of thunder broke so loud and near us, as made the scene terrible. Whether from the sound itself, or distant ecchoes of it I cannot say, but the noise sometimes seemed below us, which brought to my recollection, at once, the description and solution of the like circumstance, of a storm in the *Æneid*, where it says, "The poles thundered". Thank God! we had here but half of that description to encounter, the wind not rising to any violence. About midnight it grew exceeding dark: we and the other ships made false fires for our barges,

barges, which were answered by some of them. A little afterwards the Duke's barge fell in with the Prince Frederick, and they hoisted her in : the next morning we saw the chase again, and our barge attending her, but no sight of the Prince Frederick's, wherein were fifteen of the best sailors of the ship : but as by the commodore's orders, all boats sent upon these expeditions, constantly took with them a store of water, some provisions, and a compass, in case of losing the ships by night or fogs ; so it was hoped that these poor fellows being provided with all these necessaries, would make some place of safety.

About six, we came up with the chase, who did not strike her colours till the Prince Frederick had fired a fourth gun at her, which appeared
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the more perverse as the fleet was in view. She was the St. Juan Baptista, burthen eighty tons, a Spanish tartan, from the Canaries bound to Cadiz, with money and cocoa ; which cargo was said to be part of the treasure of the Hector and Henry, the very ships which we before mentioned, we were originally intended to go in quest of. Her money was not above six thousand pounds ; but her other cargo was rich. The money was put on board the King George, and the cocoa and other valuable effects on board the other ships ; and Mr. Hamilton, who before had the command of the Prince Edward tender, was put on board the prize with a proper number of men. The captain of her was a Frenchman, who with two Spanish gentlemen, passengers, came on board the commodore. One of them

them was a vice-roy, a man of great fortune, who as the highest in rank was most humble of any through a sense of the civilities he received, and most ready in acknowledging them.

But the first care, after securing the prize, was to send in search of the poor fellows, who were missing ; wherefore the commodore dispatched captain Hamilton in the prize to the first port on the Portuguese shore, with letters of credit to be forwarded for them to the several correspondents at Faro, Cadiz, and Gibraltar, in hopes that they had got hold of some part of that shore : and in case they had been obliged to put over to the Morocco coast, he likewise gave further directions to the last correspondents to forward letters of credit to Sallee and Santa Cruz ; and himself followed
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ed with the fleet, intending to water at Faro.

On the next day we chased three large sail of ships. They were the Jersey man of war, captain Hardy, the Spence sloop, and Enterprize; who gave us the agreeable news of their having met the Prince George tender, about eight days before off Cape St. Mary's; and two days afterwards we received an account by another chase, that she and the Tartan prize were both safe at Faro. The same day also, the Prince Frederick received the news, by a ship she met, of her barge being safe with all her crew, at a Spanish port about ten leagues to the eastward of Faro, called High-mount. They had been separated from our ships in that dreadful night, by a hurricane, which caught them in particular; and were out at sea eight days and nights, before

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fore they reached the shore : so that it was the great goodness of Providence, which foretold them to take such provisions with them as they did. For as it was, they were drove to the greatest hardships and terrors of mind, not having a morsel left them for the last day before they saw land, except some water and brandy, after having scanted themselves to a poor pittance for the former days ; and at last they were obliged to submit themselves prisoners to an enemy's country.

25 Aug^r
1747

On the twenty-fifth, the commodore stood in for Faro to water, when the Prince George joined us. Here we righted our ships, and proceeded to Lagos Bay, on purpose to land there the Spanish gentlemen, captain and prisoners. The commodore sent with the vice-roy, as a compli-

compliment of a guard, an equal number of the Spanish prisoners, to be, when got to High-mount (as it was the first Spanish town in his way homeward) exchanged for our men. And also begged him to deliver some letters of credit, which carried orders for them, when the cartel was settled, to come round to him at Lisbon; for it would have trespassed too far on the time of our cruise, to have waited for them till they could have come to Faro.

This gentleman, when aboard, took great pleasure in observing the behaviour and customs of the common seamen, and expressed his approbation of many particularities in them, not out of meer complaisance, but always giving very sensible reasons for his remarks. One observation among many, much superior to

it, tho' too tedious to be here introduced, I cannot help remarking for the common familiarity of it to us; especially as a contrary reasoning on the same subject has generally seemed to take place.

It was always Mr. Walker's rule to promote as much exercise as possible among the men, by planning out various diversions for them which created sweating: being convinced, that the sea-scurvy increased itself, or took most root in a sluggish blood; and that by frequent moderate perspirations, those salts might be worked off, or melted by sweating, which would otherwise corrode, or fix themselves in a matter, which, so let to rest, would in a little time grow too heavy or hard to be pushed or washed off. However right his opinion may be, he by this practice al-

ways kept his men in every ship sweet and healthful. A case of foils always lay on the quarter-decks for the use and exercise of the officers, and cudgels lay on the other decks for the common men. At which, all took their turns. Our Spanish gentleman was most delighted at the cudgel-playing, which was frequently performed on purpose before him by our best masters of the art. As sometimes a broken head was a proof of the mastership, or the end of the entertainment; when he saw the blood come, and the wounded man in such good humour with the conqueror, as immediately to shake hands and drink together (which was the custom) he always lifted up his eyes with amazement and admiration, and said, that “ he desired no greater instance than that one low particu-

lar of two the greatest inherent virtues which could bless a people in general, namely, courage and generosity of soul; and that from this common circumstance he was fully convinced of the peculiar greatness of the nation. With us, says he, the grandson of the man who had lost blood, would have owed a secret grudge to the children of the other, who had drawn it; and in all probability would some time or other take an unfair opportunity of a bloody revenge."

If the reader has gained an opinion of this gentleman's sense, and will not think a story from him of himself an interruption to the present business; I shall venture to relate one after him, in as good a manner as I can. If the reader should think that in some parts it puts on the
air

air of a romance ; I beg he may not charge me with such taste of writing, but consider the persons, who are the the actors in it : whose country's favourite passion is love. In which, as of all people in the world they are most restrained ~~in~~, so are they of ~~any~~ *all people the* most scheming and venturous in pursuing it. The story was introduced by some enquiry we made about the earthquake at Lima.

“ To tell you my true losses, says he, I must begin very far back, even from my infancy. My father was vice-roy or governor of the place, of which I at present am. Dying, whilst I was very young, he left me and my mother, with all his effects (which were personal and very considerable) in the care of the next great man of the place ; who, by having been long in some public office there, had

I 4 amassed

amassed a surprising fortune of the like kind: for Europeans, who fill those great offices, seldom realize in the country the profits they make by it. This gentleman did not discharge the trust, which my father placed in him, as he ought: for, in my younger days, I remember to have heard my mother make great complaints of his parsimony in his allowances to her and myself, as not consistent with either of our characters, and injurious to the education I ought to have received. For the better part of which I was totally obliged to her particular care and early instruction of me; and though a woman, I have at this day no reason to complain of her tutorship; as she was in the first place a person of strict virtue, and had several other recommending accomplishments. This circumstance of
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my life has often furnished me with a strong power of reflecting, how very essential in the consideration of marriage is the choice of a wise woman, even beyond beauty or fortune; for in case of any ill fate or accident happening the husband, she can then supply his place to his children. The first stroke of ill fortune I suffered was by an illness she was seized with, which occasioned her death. I was then a youth about fourteen years old. Even at that tender age her death-bed prognostications were very alarming to me, in recommending strongly to my example the merits of my deceased father; as the better trust for a future livelihood than any expectations of a fortune in my guardian's hands. After the duties of her funeral were performed, the first visit I paid was to my guardian, deeply affected with the impression which the

words of my dying mother had made upon me. He very soon took occasion to tell me, that I must now think of looking out for some business to enter into, my fortune in his hands being, as he said, so very small and insignificant, thro' the extravagance and ill conduct of my father ; at the same time he threw out some accusations against him for his ~~lower~~ generosity. I had strength of mind patiently to behold myself an outcast to the world. I had temper and spirit to bear and despise the avaritious fraud of so great a villain : but tho' I did not remember my father, yet having heard so many people talk of his virtues to me, I could not submit to any lie or infamy to be scratched on the fair monument of his fame. I insulted the old villain as a liar ; I accused him of fraud, and upbraided him with ingratitude to his friend's remains. In short, our passions

passions on both sides growing equally high (as he was not used to contradiction) we took up weapons against each other ; and though he was in years, yet considering my boy-hood, the match had in it no ungenerous inequality : however, I gained much the advantage ; and when his servants with his daughter (who was his only child, and heir to all his fortune) interposed, my hand was fastened to his throat, and I believe had soon stopped his life ; but on her appearance I disengaged me from my hold, and excusing myself to her in a manner due to her affinity and my own justification, retired. I then applied to some of my father's acquaintances for assistance to recover my fortune, or a genteel maintenance out of my guardian's hands. Every one almost answered me in dumb shew, with

expressive shrugs, or commiserating shakings of the head. Some indeed went so far as to give an opinion, "that it was a pity my father's son should be put to any necessities for a genteel living;" and one or two promised me, that they would speak to him for something to be done in my behalf; but when I waited on them again for their answer, I was upbraided by them for my past conduct, in offering to lift my arm against my guardian, a second parent; and dismissed with a coolness that told me I was very undeserving of favour. Under these circumstances sitting one morning alone, very pensive, a young negro girl left with my servant a present for me of a water-melon, wrapped up in a small basket; and went off before I could enquire to whom I was obliged. Taking it out, I found it

it very heavy, and could perceive it had been cut and joined together. It owed its weight to a large present of gold. My pride here got the better of my gratitude. What, said I, am I become a dependant on charity, to be fed by alms? I threw it on the ground, and upbraided my servant for taking it in ; but at last reason gained the rule, at my servant's offering to take it away out of my sight. I took it up myself, and put it to its proper uses. There was a young gentleman of the place, a man of large fortune, my intimate and acquaintance : he was in love with my guardian's daughter, to whose courtship (as from several circumstances there was no expectancy of gaining a father's consent) I had been very administering in delivering letters, at the frequent visits of business or ceremony

ny which my mother used to pay the house; for she always carried me with her. But I never was so successful in my embassy as to bring my friend any answer back. Though I now could be no longer his assistant, and he knew it, yet I imagined this compliment to my distress came from him. I taxed him with it: he seriously disclaimed the merit of it, but generously offered me his friendship in that or any other way in his power; and indeed, he was the only solace of conversation and familiar of sincere friendship I had at all times recourse to. I on the other hand continued the trusty confidant of his love, and was generally his attendant to the silent window at night of his beautiful mistress; who frequently was there to receive us, and in her address and behaviour was truly amiable, tho' no ways
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encouraging to the hopes of a lover, even to be complaisant to me, notwithstanding the disorder of spirits my attack on her father had thrown her into, which I heard had cost her a fit of illness. But amidst all this friendship, which for upwards of four years was uninterrupted and lively, I never once was reduced to the blush of accepting the convenience of his purse, though every day offered it. My still unknown benefactor attacked me a thousand ways with a like liberality, and took me every time unguarded. To tell the many and elegant stratagems made use of to deceive me into an easy acceptance of so much bounty, would take up more time than I ought to trespass on you, for a recital of the whole story. One morning I received a formal challenge from a person, unknown, to meet at a certain spot,

spot, but to bring no second. I went, and at the appointed place, on a tree, hung a writing with these words in a woman's hand, *Strike at my heart*. I went to take it down, and found it only the outside label of a weighty purse of gold. Alas ! said I, smiling, you are a dangerous enemy to engage ; and I own you have before conquered me : however, for this once, I take you away prisoner. Another time at night I was met by a slave, who rudely and suddenly threw a mantle or short cloak over my head and face. I imagined an assassination. Villain, said I, tearing it off my face, and drawing my sword, when no person appearing, I took up the mantle, which was a fine piece of gold and silver embroidery in needlework, with these characters, *You have struck my heart and ought to be*

be my prisoner ; and at the four corners hung by way of tassels four gold knit purses, richly filled. These kind of presents grew so familiar to me, that I insensibly began to conceive I had some angel-steward above, who knew all my necessities, and provided accordingly : for I gave a loose to the pleasurable pursuits of youth, almost totally neglecting my guardian's debt to me, or not considering it as any part of my dependance.

One day, my friend came to me with transports in his eyes and gestures. "Read that letter, says he, from my dear Isabella," throwing it on my table. When I took it up, my surprise kept equal pace with his joy, not so much at the contents, as at the hand, which I knew to be the same that wrote the label on the tree. However, the contents were sufficient
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to cover all my confusion, which my countenance expressed at it. They gave an account of her father then lying at the point of death, and desired him to come to her house at a certain hour that night in a priest's habit, and to bring me with him drest in the like disguise, when we should be admitted on business of much importance. We attended in every particular conforming to the appointment, and were introduced to an apartment, where the lady made her appearance, and with great grace addressing herself to my friend, said, "I dare say you will excuse my asking your assistance in this private manner, as it intends the service of your friend. My father has now entered upon his last hour of intelligent life, being now in his senses, which he obtains at intervals between
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very violent deliriums. His physicians assure me, that his next fit of frenzy will be his end. I know the high demand this gentleman has on him for a fortune, which for some purposes, of which I am ignorant, has been concealed. I mean to make no excuses for my father, where heaven has taken away all excuse by giving such abundant blessings to his peculiar share. I have therefore solicited an account from him ; but he declines giving any to me, saying, he will make confessions of it to his fathers, and give a sufficient restitution to them. Now, Sir, as I am willing to do a justice to this injured gentleman, I considered that the church would conceal the confession, to secure to itself the gift of restitution ; and as my father is now so far spent, as not to be able to discover the fraud, which

which I mean with a good intention to impose upon him ; if I have your consent to it, I will admit you into the chamber to take his confession ; and as none other except his physicians have been admitted to him but in his deliriums, you need fear no present interruption or future detection. If you satisfy yourselves about the particulars, as to the fortune, you may depend upon my after execution of what is just ; and I dare say, I shall do his soul more good by a return of the whole to the proper owner, than by any gift to the church of a part." This was spoke with such a tender duty for a dying father, as visibly revealed in her a fear and concern for his having done amiss ; at the same time it shewed such an unbounded generosity of mind, that we could not but admire the whole with wonder as in silence. We were ac-

cordingly admitted into the chamber where the sick man lay, who by a glimmering light was so easily deceived in us as to reveal the important secret. For my friend played the priest extremely well; and being a man of humour, bartered much about the sum to be paid to the church in the place of restitution. For my part, I was almost totally silent, but oftentimes could scarcely refrain my smiles. When we withdrew, his daughter waited to receive us. I was almost afraid to repeat the sum mentioned, lest the largeness of it (as it was very considerable) should be beyond what her generosity, though great, had intended to bestow. She did not shew the least surprize at it; but telling us that she would at the proper time ask us to a more public visit, wished us good night, as, she said, she had some ceremonies

monies to be discharged to her father in his next return of frenzy, which was now every moment expected ; recommending it to us to keep this affair in the mean time a secret. The next day we received a public account of her father's dying mad, under the office of extream unction. I dare say from the witness I myself was to his latter moments, that the frenzy of his mind was but the outside illness, or effect of a troubled conscience within.

My next reflections you may imagine were upon the past behaviour of my guardian angel, for such her appearance in her whole conduct was to me. My friend was greatly alert and elevated, prethinking her his future bride ; nor did his generosity and love for me envy me my future expectations of such a promised fortune,
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diminishing his own ; but I was in no small pain on his account. I was conscious of her regard for me in the many tokens sent with the multitude of her bounties. I could then plainly discover a reservedness in her to him in our late interview, and well account for her former exactness of address and decorum through all the past, flattering myself that the frequent opportunities she gave him of nightly scenes at her window, were owing to her desire of my company, and so it was. The time was not long before she sent for us, sooner indeed than we could suppose her affairs in a readiness. Our invitation was to an entertainment where were many of her friends, before whom she took an opportunity of acquainting me, “ that her father before his death had mentioned to a friend, that such a portion of
his

his personal effects belonged to me ; but that she believed he had in his passion destroyed most of my papers on receiving the late affront from me : wherefore if I was content with the account, she was ready to return it." You may again judge my happiness, and the whole company's approbation and wonder at her beauteous conduct. Even my friend was to his cost delighted ; but afterwards, when the first sallies of my joy began to give way to reflection, I sunk into a severe melancholy and thought how to discharge myself with honour between love and friendship. You cannot be surprized, if I say, I sincerely was in love, and gratitude also threw its stronger bonds on my inclinations. I blessed my fate that had so separated us for the past years, lest by growing up with her perfections, I had become so familiar

familiar to them (which is often the case between brother and sister) as not to feel the strong notice of them, which I did by being awaked at once into the light. I saw her passion for me at every instance discover itself, and even my friend now began to think her behaviour too reserved to his courtship, as short of his expectations, or self-promises of her favour; and perceiving also my alteration of mind, he insisted, as I thought, with a jealousy upon knowing the cause. I thought it more consistent with our friendship to reveal to him, that it was upon his account I had entertained any concern at my present fortune, and disclosed my whole breast to him, and my opinions of her love. His eyes were opened; he saw the truth as clear as I did; confusion of mind and loss of all sense deprived him of himself.

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self. He fainted in my arms. I recovered him to life, but not to his senses; anger, rage, and revenge now took place. He drew his sword, and shortening it made a stroke at me, which I avoided, and with the utmost pity took my leave, giving him over to time to bring his distempered mind to health and reason. But his frenzy did not leave him: he spoke aloud his complaints against me, as of a false friend, who had robbed him of his love. He more madly spoke of the late transaction of our imposing on the deceased father, and I immediately had notice from my friends to prepare for my escape; for upon his imprudent discovery, the power of the convent would otherwise have taken hold of me instantly. My first thoughts of providing for myself were soon changed into a total care for my beautiful

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teous guardian, who was rather more guilty than myself, as the generous contriver of the plot. I hastened to her, revealed our mutual danger with the freeness of an approved lover; for the danger put by all ceremony, and she in like manner was surprized into the same behaviour. The alternative was to fly away together, or be doomed to all worldly adversity, if we staid. We engaged two particular friends of great consequence in strict fidelity to us: to them we conveyed our larger boxes of treasure, and taking with us all our jewels and a large quantity of money, we left Lima in the night with a man and woman-servant, in a swift carriage. Our friends wisely barricaded both our houses, and deserted them; by this means the ceremony of breaking open first the one and then the other (as the fraternity thought we must be

concealed in one of them) took up most of the next day, and favoured our escape ; for they came, as expected, and perceiving us gone, took possession of both our houses and all the rich furniture in them, in part of retaliation of the particular sum bequeathed to them by the deceased, which particular also our frantic friend revealed, and hereby got pardon and absolution for himself. But he did not enjoy life long : he was pitied by some, despised by others, hated by himself, and died in some months after. Much to be lamented it is, that when we neglect the watch over ourselves, our passions often take such ungovernable fire, and rage over the fair palace of reason !---- In twenty-four hours we were several leagues on our way to Panama, from whence, as our design was, we crossed over to Porto-Bello, and there took shipping for Europe.

We got safe to Spain. It would be indulging myself too unfairly in a partial entertainment, were I to tell the various scenes, through which we passed in our travels with the greatest happiness, as not one misfortune attended us in the whole. The pleasant times of courtship, the alternate accounts of her contrivances in sending, and of my surprized acceptances of her past favours, and our mutual endeavours to be agreeable to each other, added a peculiar pleasure to ourselves, amidst the beautiful variety of scenes ; for the strictest decorum of respect was on my side preserved, and an uncensurable conduct on hers. We did not think it safe to make any great stay in Old Spain, but went soon to France, and from thence to Holland. In short, we were the happiest pair, were blessed with lovely children, had

seen many of the polite courts, settled our affairs at Lima by our interest in Spain, and at last returned thither with the principal command. I must just stop to tell you, that the terms by which we made peace with the church, were by paying down the real sum stipulated between my friend and wife's father for a restitution. I cannot but smile even now, when I reflect on the acting of that deceit. Little did I then think, that the mockery of our increasing the dues of restitution, as a right of our profession, which was then a matter of such pleasantry, should be now in earnest paid."

Here the gentleman made a full stop as at having concluded his story: and had we imagined the remaining part to have been so tragical a scene, after so pleasing a walk of entertaining life, our good nature would have checked
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our further enquiry, which our worse bred curiosity was too forward in asking.

“ My house, says he, though standing apart from the rest of the city, was a large structure in itself, sufficient to effect its own ruin. At the time of the earthquake, which happened on a sudden upon the clearest and most temperate day which the skies ever seemed to compose as a blessing to mankind, I was in a hall in the midst of the town on a public occasion. The universal crack burst like a bolt of thunder on the ear of every sense ; its rolling noise, as it passed off, continued for some minutes of time. The earth shook, and kept its fit of trembling ; houses, churches, whole streets of building sunk or tumbled every way in ruins. Walls were seen to open and close again as on joints ;

till at last the whole city became a mountain of rubbish, and devoured most of its inhabitants within its own bowels. The sea joined in the common depredation. It swelled over the streets and ruins; then, as struck with the general terror, it run back with as strong a reflux; then flowed again repeatedly, till it at last settled like a balance to itself. To describe the various terrors of the people would be to paint so many various faces, but all held in this one opinion, that it was the last day of nature. Some run out on the strand after the sea, and were by its sudden return again instantly overwhelmed; some made to the fields and country, but most of them were caught, or intercepted in the ruins, tumbling on their heads. I was preserved from the falling roof of the hall, by a kind of
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arched canopy over my head ; I got clear of the surrounding heap as soon as possible, and rushing through all danger, and mounting over hills of ruins, I found my way unhurt to my own home ; which afforded still, if possible, a more heart-felt shock to that part of human nature which I shared. The whole was a ruined heap ; my wife, children, and servants, all below the disfigured mass. I had every assistance could be given, and we removed the rubbish with an expedition that scarce seemed tedious to my eager wishes. Out of five children, heaven saved me three, who are now alive ; my wife was also taken up alive, but crushed and wounded beyond cure. Here you may judge a scene of tears ; but amidst this our sorrow, her pious soul saw reason, for which to thank the heavenly direc-

ter of all things that she lived to behold me preserved to defend in life our remaining children. Her death was at last some ease to my own heart; as it put a being out of pain, whose better place of existence was to be in happiness."

Some few days after his telling this story, he expressing much curiosity about the manner of a sea-fight, Mr. Walker ordered a general exercise of the great guns of our own and the other ships, that is, of running them out to take aim, and in again, as in an engagement, with firing of the small arms, one ship against another.

line 18 other times, as they made the men more
line 17 These exercises we also practised at regular in their actions, when the engagement became real. The commodore in this manner gave him the representation of a sea-engagement, which

which was performed by all the ships with great alacrity, and shewed the grandeur of such actions without the terror. At this and some other marks of respect, he expressed great acknowledgment of pleasure and thanks; he afterwards went ashore at Lagos-Bay, as before-mentioned, in his way to High-mount, where he proved a faithful minister in obtaining the discharge of our men, in return to the civilities he had received.—As we stood in for Lagos-Bay, with little wind, we saw three settees about three leagues to the westward, supposed to be Spaniards. We immediately hoisted out our barge and yawl, and sent them in pursuit of them; the Prince Frederick also sent both her's, the commodore having given her the Princess Amelia's barge in the place of her own. In the evening, about eight o'clock, we saw our

boats in the offing return with two of the fettees, being Spaniards ; the other had run ashore under the fort, which fired at our boats to prevent their pursuing. Upon our first observing our boats with their prizes, our ships came to an anchor ; the Spaniards had made a stout resistance, which deserved compliment equally speaks the attack as bold on our side. They had one man killed and several wounded ; we had two lieutenants, a gunner, and six other men wounded, two of whom afterwards died. Our barge brought the two captains on board us : they were Catalonians, and the prizes were the St. Mazine and St. Christopher from Barcelona, bound to Lisbon, with raisins and silk handkerchiefs.

When we had just finished our watering, October the sixth, the last
 6 Oct
 1767 and

and most severe engagement happened, which for its various accidents and catastrophes has been equalled by few, but exceeded by none. Mr. Walker in the Boscawen had before engaged and overcome six armed Martinico ships at one time, yet they were each inferior to him. Here he had a colossus singly to encounter, whose smallest ball well placed was sufficient to have sent his floating castle of defence to the bottom of the ocean. But to our story.

October the 6th, the King George and Prince Frederick having just completed their watering, and coming out clear of the bay, about five o'clock in the morning, the Prince Frederick saw a large sail under her lee-quarter standing to the northward, towards Cape St. Vincent, the wind N. E. Upon which the commodore threw
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out the signal for chasing: the Prince Frederick being further in the offing, keeping to the southward, whilst the commodore endeavoured to get between the chase, and the land to cut her off from thence; and seeing her a ship of force, dispatched one of the settees, (whom he had immediately employed as tenders) to the Princess Amelia, which was the only ship that had not yet finished her watering, and was still at an anchor in the bay, with orders for captain Riddel to weigh his anchor instantly and follow him, which he did. The Duke and Prince George, which ships were the first that had compleated their watering, having been ordered to the eastward to cruise, were now in sight; and perceiving the signal to chase, they continued the pursuit for about an hour, and then strangely brought-to, contrary to the

repeated signals thrown out by the commodore. The chase by this conduct in the pursuit, seeing herself likely to be hemmed in by the two ships, the King George and Prince Frederick, was obliged to bear away, making all the sail she could to the westward; without doubt taking us for larger ships than we were, whilst we took her for a less than she really was. We continued in this pursuit for upwards of five hours, at which time she shewed no colours. At last, about 12 o'clock, the King George came up with her; when all on a sudden it fell a dead calm, in which we lay within gun-shot of each other: the Duke and Prince George were quite out of sight, the Prince Frederick to the southward also becalmed, and the Princess Amelia not yet come

up. In this situation the chase all at once hoisted colours and run out her lower tier; when we perceived her a seventy four gun ship: but there being little or no wind to spread her colours, we could not distinguish whether they were Spanish or Portuguese. We lay in some suspense what to make of her; taking her, if a Spaniard, to be one of the rich homeward bound ships expected with the year's money from the West-Indies, of which the commodore had intelligence; but with this difference, that none of them were said to exceed fifty-four guns. Whilst we lay thus in view of each other, not yet confirmed in our opinions of her, nor as yet determined what step to take, but waiting for some motion to be first made from her side; in about an hour she hauled in her lower tier,
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and shut her ports. The commodore at this opportunity consulted with his officers what to do; they were all of opinion by this her behaviour that she was a monied ship, and gave their voices for engaging. About five o'clock in the evening a small breeze springing up from the northward, she again directed her course to the eastward towards Cape St. Vincent; which confirmed the opinion of her being one of those treasure ships; and that she wanted on that account to get under the protection of the port. The commodore, as we have said, having founded the inclinations of his officers and men (who had sufficient time to consider the great odds against them, if they had been the least afraid) and perceiving them still desirous of engaging, gave orders to renew the chase. We got up along side to her
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with all expedition and alertness, expecting to be soon joined by the Prince Frederick, who was now some greater distance a stern than before, occasioned by our getting the wind before it reached her.

It was now eight o'clock, and a clear moon-shine evening. On coming up to the chase, we first hailed her in Portuguese, but received no answer: we then spoke to her in English; when without answering our question, she likewise hailed us in English, and asked the name of our ship; we replied the King George. Without further word or notice she then instantly gave us the prepared fire of her whole broadside, which dismounted two of our guns, and brought down our main top-sail yard; this smart salute, as we lay ready on our arms, was as suddenly returned. Thus the unequal contest began: the Spaniards repeated their

firings with incessant warmth, but not with a continued execution ; for tho' they fired as fast as they could, yet their firings after the two first broadsides were extreamly irregular, only firing four or six guns at one time ; owing, we may suppose to the great weight of their guns, which made them less governable than ours were to us. And in this we had the advantage of them from our nearness ; for as we continued to fire our broadsides, so equally regular and well throughout the whole engagement, that the last was near as good as the first, not a shot could possibly miss them, and thereby also the fire of our small arms took place ; which like a storm of fiery hail beat against the enemy with such incessant force, that as we were afterwards informed, they fled from their quarters more than

once. And here great remembrance must be paid to Mr. James Riddel our captain of marines, and brother to captain Riddel of the princess Amelia. He commanded these firings so resolutely, regularly, and quick, that the muskets grew so hot in the hands of the men as to oblige them during the action to take three changes. Had we been at a greater distance, the Spaniard could have directed his guns with better aim at our rigging, and perhaps have sooner disabled us therein; but by mostly pointing them at our hull with an intent to sink us; as every gun was expected to do the office; many of the balls lodged between wind and water; for by the nearness there was not space for them all to come to a rise. Our men fought like lions; the prospect of so great a prize before them, though a thought
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of too bold a daring, animated them up to feats of valour. But Mr. Walker, who no doubt felt a pleasing satisfaction in beholding such bravery of his men, was still looking out for the other ships to come up to his assistance ; rather thinking, from the great odds of the enemy, that if he remained much longer unassisted, he must fall a prey to them or the seas. He fought and commanded with a calmness almost peculiar to himself. Every man else in the ship appeared a creature actuated with a headstrong spirit of bravery ; which seemed to absorb or collect in it all other thoughts. In short, the whole ship was an engine from every part of her of missive fire ; and yet among ourselves we were in no confusion, but all orders even in the greatest heat of action were deliberately

rately, tho' with expedition, obeyed; attentive to our duties, and not out-running our abilities in the execution.

During the whole time of the action, which in this manner lasted above three hours, yard arm to yard arm, the castle upon Cape St. Vincent fired very briskly, as a neutral power commanding peace; and we, being the nearest to it, received many of its shots. Thus we were almost the whole engagement between two fires; but it did us no great damage, on account of its distance. The nearer challenge to our best powers set the more remote danger almost out of the view of our attention; for by the closeness of the fight, our main-sail actually took fire from the lighted wadding of the enemy's guns. And here a proof may be shewn of Mr.

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Walker's ease and steadiness of temper in the heat of action and business. Having dispatched up a number of men to extinguish the blaze, another man officiously running up also, Mr. Walker called him back, and reprimanding him for going without orders, sent him to his place; saying, "He had ordered enough, as he thought, on the business, and when they did not do their duty he would then send for him." Thus in all extremities, the exactest discipline was preserved.

Though we had received many shots in our hull, yet from the great number fired, our rigging could not boast of any escape: for all our braces and main top-sail yard were shot away, the fore-mast quite disabled, and the main-mast damaged. We could not work our ship, and bravery became

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now a virtue of necessity. Never before was a contest more terrible, and, however fatal on one side (as we could never learn their exact numbers killed) yet conducted with so little loss on ours! for we had but one man killed and fifteen wounded, seven of whom afterwards died. This preservation was owing no doubt to the same method of elm-planking in the place of nettings, with which every ship was provided; as is described in the *Boscawen*.

At eleven o' clock, the enemy to our great surprize made sail, and left us the field of battle. It was an easy running away; for we were not able to follow. But I must here mention what is due to Mr. Dottin's merit [of the *Prince Frederick*; that he endeavoured to get up to us during the engagement as fast as he could;

but there was so little wind, that it was half an hour after ten o'clock, or about half an hour before the enemy went off, when he came a-stern of us, upon the enemy's larboard quarter, and began firing with what guns he could bring to bear ; which certainly drew some part of the enemy's attention towards him ; for he had three of his men dangerously wounded, two of whom had both their legs shot away : but he was not at all disabled in his rigging. However, the commodore did not give him any orders yet to chase, lest we might spring a leak or other accident might happen to us in the night : but two sail appearing to windward, and false fires being made, which were answered, we knew them to be part of our fleet, and grew happy in the thought that our friends were gathering round us.

Early at break of day Mr. Dottin came on board : as he came up the side, he asked “ whether the commodore was alive,” and when he saw the ship full of men, and missed none of the officers or his friends, he stood in amazement for some time, before his surprize could let loose his joy ; he then ran into the commodore’s arms. At six o’ clock the Prince George came up, who had rowed all night to us by the report of the engagement ; and told us that the Duke and the two settees were a-stern : all which ships, having first compleated their watering, had been sent on their station to the eastward. Pity it was, we had not met this high antagonist, when we were all under way on our regular cruise. If so, we had certainly made a surer and safer conquest of her : but, as it before has been
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observed, when we first saw her, we had not all left our watering-place, and were not together in a readiness for engaging. All our ships being now come together, except the Princess Amelia, who was even at an anchor when we first begun the chase; the commodore put the Duke and Prince George under the command of the Prince Frederick, captain Dottin, and sent them all three in pursuit of the enemy, keeping the two settees to attend upon us: whilst we, having all the night made the best resit we could, though still maimed and crippled, slowly followed after; hoping to come up at last to compleat the conquest we had so near won.

As on the one hand, the ships sent after the chase retired from our view; on the other, a large ship came up towards us from the eastward. We

were but in a sad condition to make any resistance, and were not a little alarmed at the fear (if an enemy) of being taken an easy prey, thus unprepared for a fresh ship : but those fears ceased, as in her approaches to us, we discovered her an English man of war. The commodore, believing her to be the Jersey, captain Hardy, who we before met, and being desirous that no time should be lost in giving information of the chase in view, wrote a letter to him as the ship was coming up ; acquainting him, “ that the fleet to the westward were his ships in pursuit of a Spanish man of war, who had engaged him the night before, and whom he hoped would fall an easy conquest to a ship of his force.” This letter he directed to captain Hardy, or to the commanding officer on board, and
sent

sent it by one of the boats of the settees to meet him (our own boats being intirely shot into splinters) in order that he should not be retarded in the pursuit. This proved to be the Ruffel man of war, commanded by captain Buckle, who opened the letter, and as he would not wait writing, sent his compliments back to Mr. Walker by word, "that he thanked him for the contents, and would observe them." He immediately crouded all his sail and hastened after them. The Princess Amelia next came in sight, whom we knew by the signals she first threw out upon seeing us. The commodore in like manner dispatched her also after the chace, and now our whole fleet was in close pursuit; and tho' we could not keep up with them, yet in our place was the Ruffel a ship of eighty guns.

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And

And now a new scene began : for we perceived the head-moſt ſhip engaged, which we took for the Prince Frederick, as ſhe led our other ſhips and was the beſt ſailor. Yet we counted one more than our number among the croud ; but could not tell whence ſhe came. The commodore, as he ſtood obſerving them with his glaſs upon deck, greatly blamed captain Dottin of the Prince Frederick for engaging before the other ſhips had cloſed alſo on the chace ; for now perceiving the fire to grow very brisk, he ſaid aloud, *Dottin will fire away all his cartridges at too great a diſtance, and afterwards be obliged to load with looſe powder, by which ſome fatal accident may happen.* Scarce had he pronounced theſe words, when upon giving a broadſide ſhe appeared a pillar of ſmoke in the air. *She's gone, oh heavens !* cries the commodore,

modore. *Dottin, and all his brave-fellows, are now no more.* Sir, says one of the officers, standing by him; *'tis only the smoke of her last broadside.* *'Tis a dreadful truth you tell,* replies the commodore: *for 'tis the last she will ever give.* The smoke being soon dispelled, no ship was to be seen; from which we too assuredly knew the truth. Of all the sudden changes of fortune which ever lay in prospect before a number of men, elate with pursuing victory, and confident of success, sure never did one appear more suddenly astonishing and affecting than this! grief took place, visible in the pale countenance of each common man as well as officer: No distinguishing of sorrow was to be made amongst them. The commodore, seeing his officers so sunk in their spirits, and consequently the men dis-

couraged, stepped aside off the quarter-deck into the round-house, whither his officers followed him. *Gentlemen, says he, if we have a tear to drop, let it be here. Yet whilst it shews us men to pay this remembrance to our friends, past out of life ; 'tis the part of soldiers to bear up against the affliction, that like our other enemies, would overcome us. Especially it is now necessary to do so, at least in appearance before my men : as affairs may take a new turn with us ; and as in case of meeting with a new enemy, this too much concern in you may beget a diffidence in them.* At the moment he closed his words, a violent explosion broke aloud in our own ship, like a rattling or thrilling thunder. The commodore running out, doubly alarmed, as well as each of us, by the shock so sudden on the back of the
other,

other, saw all the decks deserted, the men scared, either clinging by the ropes at the outside of the ship, just ready to let themselves down into the sea, or running out on the bowsprit end, all expecting the moment of her blowing up. So easily may the minds of the bravest men be affected with a sudden surprize, when prepossessed by any previous fear! He quickly saw whence proceeded the noise and firing. Having, as we said, put ourselves in the night in the best order we could, one of the first businesses was to clean and load our arms in readiness for any new attack. The small arms, thus prepared, were laid upon the gratings on the quarter-deck, and covered with a crojack-sail, whilst the arm chests were set to air; and one of the men in some hurry of duty springing giddily over them,

struck one of the cocks, which flashing made almost a total discharge of the whole, and set all the cartouch-boxes a-bursting and flying off. When the commodore ran out, several of the arms still kept firing on each side, and the crojack-sail soon blazed out and set fire to some part of the quarter-deck. Not a man was obedient to his call, or ventured giving any assistance, but the said captain James Riddle, and our honest and brave chaplain, a very worthy gentleman; who with the commodore ventured themselves boldly, notwithstanding the frequent firings, in bringing water and extinguishing the flames. But chiefly to Mr. Riddle's great activity, boldness, and presence of mind in this extremity of things, it was owing, that a more fatal accident did not happen. No person was hurt but the
man

man who had occasioned the accident, and who by as giddily jumping off at the ends, where the guns pointed both ways, was shot dead; and lay by the side of the arms: but had not Providence, who in almost every act designs several ends; sent the commodore and his officers off the deck in private condolence for the supposed loss of their friends, and partners in the war; most if not all of them must have perished as they stood around the arms.

The unfortunate ship which was blown up was the Dartmouth man of war, captain James Hamilton, who being the night before several leagues to the westward, and hearing the report of the guns in the late engagement, made the best of his way to the point from which he heard the firing, and in plying up to windward fell in

with our chase first, and engaged her before our ships came up, and being the headmost of the fleet was imagined by us to be the Prince Frederick. He engaged the enemy in a running fight very warmly for about an hour and half with his bow chase, which the Spaniard as briskly returned with his stern, and had come almost to a close engagement, when the Prince Frederick had now brought her bow chase to bear, and had also begun to engage; in the beginning of which close engagement the Dartmouth blew up. Lucky it was for many of her people, that the Prince Frederick was so near, as she immediately got out her boats to their assistance, which the Duke did likewise, being also near enough to lend her aid. They took up about seventeen of them alive, among whom there was no one of

any rank except Mr. Obrien, who was a young gentleman of Ireland, and then an acting lieutenant. He was taken up, recovered to his senses, floating on the carriage of a gun, on which he had been blown out of the ship into the water. He was a young gentleman of great ease in behaviour, and of an happy readiness of wit; which talents he has since improved to the gaining the esteem, as he before engaged the favour of mankind. His first salute to Mr. Dottin was, *Sir, you must excuse the unfitness of my dress to come aboard a strange ship; but really I left my own in such a hurry, that I had no time to stay for a change.* This easy turn of thought amidst the melancholy scene lightened the consideration of the present distress, and made true the reflection, "that good humour is half way to philosophy."

Of

Of all the persons saved, Mr. O'Brien was the only one who could give any account of the affair; which was this. Being sent on a message from captain Hamilton to the officer who commanded below, as he was down between decks, he was met by the gunner who attended the magazine; staring, wild and trembling: he asked Mr. O'Brien, where the captain was? "Where should he be but upon deck, says Mr. O'Brien, but what's the matter?" O Sir, the magazine! At which word the explosion happened, and he knew no more till he found himself floating upon his new bark in the midst of the sea. His escape was the more extraordinary, as he was between decks when the explosion happened; which one would imagine to be a certain place of death. But he was in all supposition blown out sideways,

ways, in the same direction in which the carriage was sent also, and so alighted on it as it buoyed up in the water; for he has often assured us, that he did not get upon it by swimming or catching hold of it, as he found himself on it the moment he was sensible.

After taking up the men and getting in the boats, in which interim the chace had made all the sail she could to the westward, the Prince Frederick and Duke renewed their chace, and by this time were also happily joined by the Ruffel. And now again another scene began in the pursuit and conquest of this bold though flying enemy; for never did Spaniards, nor indeed men, fight a ship better than they did this. Our fleet pursued her all night, in which we lost sight of them; but conjectured the success of
the

the engagement from the report of the guns : for hearing them repeated about two o'clock in the morning, we supposed it renewed, and hearing no more of them after three, concluded the enemy had struck. And our conjectures were very near the truth ; for about that hour in the morning the three ships came within a gun-shot of the chace, when the *Russel* began the engagement, which became very bloody. All the ships continuing their firings with their utmost vigour and smartness, which were with great bravery returned by the *Spaniard*. The *Russel* had sixteen men killed and wounded, all her boats shot away, several shots between wind and water ; yet she did equal execution upon the enemy : at last a shot from her took away the *Spaniard's* main-top mast ; upon which he fired a single gun and struck.

struck. The prize was the Glorioso man of war of seventy-four guns, seven hundred and fifty men, had been but seven days from the Groyne, and bound to Cadiz. The Russel was of eighty guns, but had only three hundred and seventy men. The number of prisoners was so great, that captain Buckle had a deal to manage. He made use of the Prince Frederick's and Duke's barges in transporting the prisoners on board his own ship and them; and took sixty of the Prince Frederick's men and forty of the Duke's on board the Russel for her greater security. Notwithstanding this, the men growing mutinous by their great numbers, he was obliged to hold a consultation with the captains Dottin and Denham how to dispose of them. At this time the Prince George coming up, it was instantly

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stantly concluded, that she should take
in as many as she could, which were
about two hundred; and that the
Prince Frederick should conduct them
safe into Lisbon. The prize was so
shattered, that the three following
days were employed chiefly in repair-
ing her, before she could make any
great sail; which when they had put
somewhat to rights, the whole pro-
ceeded to Lisbon:—When we con-
sider the great bravery of this ship in
the several severe engagements she
encountered of two men of war and
three large privateers, we cannot but
the more wonder at the first bold at-
tack of our own ship the King George;
who fought her so many hours in her
full strength and vigour, and at last
obliged her to run.

In the morning of the engagement;
we have said, we lost sight of the
whole

whole fleet, except the Princess Amelia, who had been dispatched much later than the rest after the chase, and was to the westward of us, but who, also having lost sight of the other ships, again rejoined us. We then in conjunction with her and the two frigates stretched away to the westward, the wind N. N. E. in expectation of falling in again with them: But seeing nothing of them, we gave over the search, and again set about getting our own ship in as good plight as we could, to act upon the defensive in case of meeting with an enemy (in which business we had been employed ever since the time of the action) for as to pursuing one, we were not yet in any condition.

October the ninth, about nine o'clock in the morning, we saw three sail also to the westward, the one
the

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the most to leeward seemed to be a very large ship, from which circumstance we concluded her to be the prize, with some of our ships; and accordingly bore down to them, but found the two most to windward large Dutch ships from Cadiz, bound to Amsterdam. They informed us, that the large ship at the leeward of them was a French man of war of sixty guns, who had spoke with them the night before. This account threw our ship into some hurry of preparation; but whilst others were giving orders for the necessary matters, the commodore set himself down calmly to write a letter home by them to the managers, with the circumstances of our late engagement, our present situation, and the other matters as we then knew them, and kept the Dutchmen till he had finished. When he
had

had dismissed them he then addressed us. *Gentlemen, I need not tell you that we are in a worse condition to run than fight. I say not this as chusing at this time to lead you on to an engagement; but that, if one be unavoidable, we had better begin with the enemy by daylight, than wait for their attacking us with greater advantage to themselves by night; and if we made a ship of seventy-four guns run away by night, why not one of sixty by day? 'Tis therefore my opinion we should bear down upon the ship in view, as the most probable means of avoiding the greater disadvantages of an engagement with her.* The men giving three cheers of resolution to do as he directed, we immediately bore down on the supposed enemy, not being in a capacity to act less courageously. But very agreeably to ourselves, as we drew near her,

her, we perceived her by the cut of her sails and rigging to be an English ship, and so brought-to along-side of her. She was the Bedford man of war, commodore now admiral Townshend, whose goodness and civility, if I may be allowed the phrase at sea, were very neighbourly; for being informed of the severe engagement we had been in, he offered us any of his majesty's stores, that we might have occasion for, and all other assistance in his power: but we being in no want of any thing of the kind, having refitted as well as the situation of affairs would allow, acknowledged his civility in our best return of thanks. He then parted with us, and stood to the N.W.

The four following days, still in search of our fleet, we saw several distant sail, alone and in company, which we chased in hopes of meeting

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with,

with, or hearing some intelligence of our fleet: but all proving Dutchmen, Swedes, or English, we neither saw nor heard any thing of our ships, till the fourteenth, being then in sight of land about six or seven leagues from the rock of Lisbon; when about seven in the evening, we fell in with the Duke, and soon after saw the fleet to windward. Captain Denham informed us that the fleet in view were our ships, the Ruffel, and their prize the Glorioso, a Spanish man of war; which ship we had received accounts of, some months before, as computed to have in value above three millions sterling: he also gave us an account of the accident of the Dartmouth, and of the safety of the Prince Frederick. This news could not fail of elevating our men to an high pitch of transport, at the supposition

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position of our being in possession of so large a share of fortune. But the account of the safety of our friends was a degree of joy, if possible, above transport. Upon this news the commodore, who endeavoured to give all the pleasure in his power, as well as satisfaction to his owners, dispatched one of the settees for England to brighten the cloudy accounts sent in his letter through the channel of the Dutchman.

The next day we had the pleasure of seeing the prize and Prince Frederick. And here I must in justice to the good hearts of the men, so soon repeat the remark, that in seeing the last, they gave greater expressions of joy both in voice and gesture, than in their salutations of the prize, though imagined to be full of money. The commodore and captain Riddle immediately

diately went aboard the Ruffel. Captain Buckle received them on the quarter-deck, where were also the Spanish captain and some of his officers. Captain Buckle introduced Mr. Walker to the Spanish commander, who turned aside to shed a moment's tears, and then addressed him with great tenderness, "By you, says he, I have lost a darling son, but 'twas the fortune of the war, no fault of yours. Yet, though your honours be my misfortunes, I wish they had found some better reward than the bare glory only of reducing so great a ship: for she carries nothing but great guns, having landed all our treasure at the Groyne, before she met you." This certainly was meant a compliment; but never was a more blank one paid before, as in the account of there being no treasure on board. But

Mr. Walker, recovering himself from his surprize, told him "It was yet a satisfaction to him to see that so brave a man as he had escaped the danger; and that though it was his misfortune to be overcome, yet it could never be thought a discredit to him to have struck to his majesty's ship the *Ruffel*."

As Mr. Walker at first intended to send both the settees to England, he that evening dispatched the other also home with the present news, lest the managers should vainly imagine themselves richer than they were, or indeed needed to be. However, she was so fine and compleat a ship, that his Portuguese majesty afterwards offered for her thirty thousand moidores, wanting her at the time of the Goa expedition against the rebellion and massacre that happened there.

Next

Next morning the commodore sent for Mr. Obrien from on board the Prince Frederick, as he was much burnt, to have him under his own surgeon, the gentleman we have so often mentioned. Under his care Mr. Obrien soon recovered, and by his agreeable deportment and much good humour, made our whole company happy as himself. I say himself, for the commodore, at Lisbon, when ashore, leaving him master of the cabin, when he was sent to, and invited to continue aboard a king's ship, then in the harbour, he begged "he might be allowed to stay where he was ; unless they would make him a captain at once, as he was spoiled for any thing else." This gentleman, in whose preservation providence so remarkably interposed, a circumstance never to be forgotten to his family, is

the present heir to the title and estate of earl of Inchiquin of Ireland.

As we were the only ship hurt of our fleet, the commodore thought it necessary that the rest should proceed on their station for the remainder of the cruise; especially as our great expectations of a fortune were now again vanished. Wherefore he gave them all the necessaries which they wanted out of his own ship, and also an additional number to each of them, as was thought proper; and they accordingly left us the seventeenth, having put all the prisoners on board other ships, which they met with, going into Lisbon; whither we also bore away to refit, and came over the bar to an anchor that evening.

Early the next morning a boat belonging to the Prince George, which had been before sent in with two, hundred

hundred prisoners, came along-side of us ; and, to the great surprize of Mr. Walker, brought in her one of the managers from England, who gave Mr. Walker a very uncouth welcome into Lisbon, for venturing, as he termed it, their ships against men of war. “ Had the treasure, Sir, says Mr. Walker, been a-board, as I expected, your compliment had been otherways ; or had we let her escape from us with that treasure on board, what ^{would} ~~had~~ you then have said ?” But if I do not take care to stop myself in time, I shall run into a business which is reserved for another discussion. We shall therefore return to say, that the Glorioso prize came also with us the same day to an anchor, and the Russel man of war, all almost a-breast of each other.—Yet I cannot help mentioning one dispute, among some

M 3

others,

others, which is material here; as it rather relates to Mr. Walker's conduct than to any error of accounts. The ransom for the Buen Consejo, having been fixed and agreed on between all the parties, the managers had, without asking Mr. Walker's consent, articulated that he should convoy her safe as far as the Canary Islands. This, when he was informed of it, he absolutely refused to execute; as an unwarrantable act, by protecting his majesty's enemies. The matter was carried to a great height between the manager and him, and at last brought before Sir Benjamin Keene; who gave his sentiments entirely on Mr. Walker's side; and whilst he with great spirit, reprimanded the one, he with equal justice complimented the other: so the contract became void. This was mighty cause of displeasure against Mr. Walker. As

As soon as we got into port, we set about refitting, which took us up near ten weeks. We had received vast numbers of shot in our hull below water; most of which had only lodged in her, and not gone through; which could not be owing to the weakness of the enemy's powder; (for wherever a shot touched us above water, it did its due execution) but to the nearness of the resisting medium of the water through which they were to pass, which deadened their force. At this time the prince, now the present king of Portugal, came in a barge on purpose to see the damages we had sustained, and rowed round us and the Glorioso. We gave him a royal salute as he went from us, and received the compliment of his hat.

M 4

We

We will now attend to our three ships at sea, the Prince Frederick, Duke, and Princess Amelia, under the command of captain Dottin, of the Prince Frederick; who all behaved with great conduct, harmony, and some good fortune. For, in the first place, on October the twenty-first, as they lay off Faro, the Prince Frederick's boat, which was separated from us by night in the storm, came aboard with the lieutenant, captain of marines, and all the men safe and in health. Having received the commodore's letters of credit, as before-mentioned, they had regained their liberty by cartel at High-Mount from the Spaniards, and had come to Faro but three days before the arrival of our ships on that coast. And, November the second, seeing a sail, the
three

three ships gave chase, and rising *2 Nov*
her very fast, they soon came so near *1747*
her as to fire at her: notwithstanding
which, she still kept her wind; but
they continuing their fire pretty brisk-
ly, she at last bore down to them,
and the Prince Frederick brought her
to. She was a Dutch ship, in the
service of the Spaniards, the Agatha
galley of sixteen guns, from La Vera
Cruz, having on board seventeen
chests of money registered on Spanish
account, one box of wrought plate,
cochineal, and indigo to a great value,
in the whole amount, upwards of
twenty thousand pounds. The cap-
tains Dottin and Riddel agreed to put
the money on board the Duke, and
to send the prize under her convoy
into Lisbon to the commodore there,
whilst they continued their cruize. In
hoisting the chests of money over the
M 5 side,

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side, one chest by accident fell overboard; but the Duke and prize arrived safe at Lisbon, to the great pleasure of the commodore, and satisfaction of the manager, who immediately took possession of the money, and sent it to England in the Bedford, man of war.

The two other captains continued their cruise with great judgment and harmony, meeting every day a chace of some kind or other, but with no further success: till at last the time of their cruise expiring, and their water and provisions growing short, having put the men to an allowance of both, for some days before, they on the

29 Nov
1747

twenty-ninth of November came over the bar of Lisbon, and saluting the commodore brought up to an anchor by his side. The commodore that evening went on board each of them;

and, on hearing the circumstances of the cruise, could not be insensible of some vanity at the good behaviour and seamanship of two so young officers, brought up under his early lessons.

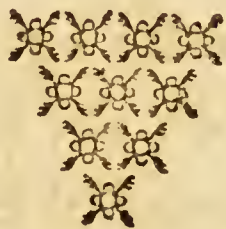
This paternal pride was also, at this time, not a little increased by his meeting with captain Brooks, his former lieutenant in the Mars and Boscawen, who had been sent for to Hamburgh by his friends, and was now commodore of two large Hamburgh men of war, on a cruise against the Turks. A whimsical awkwardness appeared here in his behaviour, as he did not know how to take place of his former master, or rather sea-parent; and yet thought that, in respect to his country's flag, he ought to assume the precedence over him, as a commander only of private ships of war. But Mr Wal-

M 6 ker,

ker, with great good humour convinced him, that the command of private ships was given by the same authority as that of king's ships ; and that all English ships of war must take place of every other nation whatever.

Mr. Walker at this time received a compliment of an extraordinary kind, for the explanation of which he was obliged to have recourse to his friends, and which we mention for no other purpose but for its oddity. The Spanish captain of the *Glorioso* being now about to return over land to Spain, wrote to him his compliments of taking leave, desiring him to send him six of his fire arms and bayonets. Mr. Walker, before he gave any answer, told the affair to the agents messieurs Mawman and Macey; where was a gentleman lately from Spain,

Spain, who informed them, that the demand was intended as the highest mark of respect which could be shewn; meaning, “That as in battle he himself had proved the merit of those arms, so he desired to continue under their guard, in his present journey.” As it was found to be meer matter of form, the Spanish arms being doubtless preferable to our own, the number were sent him.



C H A P. VIII.

The missing of the Havannah fleet ; the great trouble of getting their provision from Faro ; meeting two Algerine ships : the story of Mahomet and his son ; the King George returns to Lisbon ; the other ships end their cruise, and sail for England.

TH E Havannah fleet being about this time expected home, the commodore made all preparations for the sea with the greater haste. Accordingly, on the first day of the year 1748, he made the signal to unmoor, and we set out on the remaining half, or last four months of our cruise.

I must just mention one unhappy step taken in the management of our provisions, which I should not do, did it not concern the relation in which

which we are engaged. Before we came this last time into Lisbon, the remaining part of the provisions (which as we have beforementioned, had been sent from England) were ordered by the presiding managers round to Faro, there to be taken in by us, tho' our agents knew that at the end of the first four months cruise we were to have put into Lisbon for them. This was done without assigning any reason for it, and without having an opportunity of giving us any intelligence thereof; and besides the risque in carrying the provisions thither, and loss of time in going for them, it was also an additional expence: for we were now obliged to buy at least a month's extraordinary provisions, as we could not have gone to the destined port with a less quantity. For, being obliged to set forward immediately to Faro, and
there

there detained by various accidents in taking them in ; the first sail we met, after coming from thence, was a Dutch galliot, which informed us, " that the Havannah fleet was a few days before arrived safe at Cadiz, and had been separated from their convoy in a gale of wind ; which were only two men of war, one of sixty-four guns and the other seventy-four, both so very sickly, that even they had in all probability submitted not only to have let some of their fleet been picked up by us, but also themselves worsted in an engagement. Thus, by this one ill-fated accident alone, we *mispred* ~~escaped~~ the very fleet, which our hopes were set on meeting.

In getting round to Faro, we brought-
19th Jan to a Swede on the nineteenth, the
1748 Anna Crestina, Andrea Aspitand
 master ; who told us he had been,
 some

some days before, robbed by an English privateer ; which action, like most other bad ones, is not only answerable for its present evil, but involves in its own deserved censure the characters of others, even here of a whole nation. Wherefore, if people would always take a view of the consequences, which may attend the action they are going to commit ; the foresight, that would arise more or less in all, would certainly often stop the actor from the commission. Mr. Walker, to wipe off the national scandal, as much as in him lay, supplied the captain to the best of his power with some necessaries ; as we were now near our own provisions ; and shewed him other civilities to counter-balance, in his mind, the bad opinion he had entertained of our countrymen. Captain Riddel also chased another ship

of the same country, the Stad Wismar, Joachim Hacker, master, which had been plundered in like manner, and from the like description given, in all probability by the same ship. Capt. Riddel, in example of the commodore, treated their distress with the same good-natured policy.

Before we reached Faro, our ship, the King George, sprung her bowsprit : for repairs are seldom to be depended on in foreign ports—and the commodore knowing that he could not get in there, it being a bar harbour, anchored, on the twenty-third, in Lagos-bay to repair, and dispatched the Princess Amelia, with our new schooner (which we also called the Prince Edward tender, in the place of the one which was lost) to bring off the provisions to the rest of the ships. On the twenty-fifth, the King George, having

23rd Jan^r
1748

25th Jan^r

having repaired, weighed anchor again, and we stood off to Faro ; when the Princess Amelia and the tender coming in sight, a storm arose, and forced back the Prince Edward from the other. This inclemency of the weather continued at this time so perverse to our endeavours of expedition, that our ships could not keep on the coast, to receive the provisions from our tenders, above one day in eight. We had here, among the rest, a tempest of a very extraordinary nature, with rain, such as the like was never known, and some flashes of lightning and loud claps of thunder. The rain fell like a cataract of water, that there was scarce any standing the decks, whilst such a darkness hung around, that the clouds seemed to meet the sea, and we appeared in the regions of water. This lasted not long

long; for the darkness broke as it were in twain over our heads, and the rain abated, when the clouds fell away on all sides; in the place of this heavy rain, sudden gusts of wind arose, and a great swell came on, but none of our ships received any damage. I must also take notice, that whilst we lay here off Faro, a packet came to the commodore from Lisbon, and another to Mr. Denham of the Duke; which produced a transaction, which we shall mention in its place.

When we, with much difficulty and great loss of time, had got our provisions on board, we hastened to our station; where, after chasing numbers of English, Dutch, Portuguese, and Swedish ships, on the second of March, we fell in with a large sail; which proved to be an Algerine man of war of forty guns, five hundred and fifty men,

2. Mar
1748

men, cruising against the Spaniards and Portuguese. They had been out thirty-six days, without the least success. Their lieutenant came on board us, of whom the commodore enquired, whether they had any British subjects on board; and found that they had four from Ireland. The commodore detained the lieutenant and boat, and sent aboard the Algerine, insisting upon the men being delivered up, as subjects belonging to his Britannic majesty, with whom the Algerines were always in good peace. The Algerine captain saw himself obliged to consent; but the commodore upon further examination finding, that the men spoken of were renegadoes, who had formerly been in the Spanish service, and had voluntarily run over from them to the Moors, and having taken on them the Mahome-

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tan religion, were themselves desirous of remaining with them, he left them to their liking, judging them best where they were; as remembering the truest and shortest character ever given of the people of that nation (which I think is in Mr. Gordon's Geographical Grammar) that *when good, none better; when bad, none worse*. So he dismissed the Algerine officer.

We must here go back to a very remarkable catastrophe, which happened immediately after our late engagement with the Glorioso; but as it intervened in the middle of a principal action, we postponed it to this place, where it joins itself more regularly to its further story and conclusion.

About the time the ships were manning at Lisbon, an Algerine Turk came on board, to enter himself
as

as a common man. He had been a slave in Spain ; and having made his escape from thence, contrived this stratagem to get out of the country : the commodore gave leave for his being admitted. Much about the same time, another Turk, in the like circumstances, entered himself on board the Duke ; in which ships they severally lay concealed, never going a-shore from the time of their entering on board. The one on board us was an elderly man, of a good form and presence, and was remarkably studious in doing all handy services for the officers ; whose servants very willingly let him do them, as sparing their own trouble. Mr. Walker afterwards, when we were at sea, on some occasion taking notice of the man, thought he observed something in his address and manner more than
what

what commonly belonged to people of low degree. He sent for him to his cabin, and asking him some questions, was answered by him very modestly, and with a great air of politeness and genteel sense of the obligation done him, in being thus taken notice of ; but he would repeat no part of his history more than that of his having been a slave to the Spaniards. Mr. Walker however ordered, that he should dine at the steward's table, and that he should not be continued in offices of servitude, which he imagined him above ; and knowing, that there was another Turk on board the Duke, he sent for him to be with him in our ship ; as he thought, that the company of a countryman might be an amusement and satisfaction to him on board.

When they were introduced, at the surprize of their first seeing each

other, every passion of affection and of joy started in their countenances; every action which ensued was expressive of that heart-felt happiness. They locked themselves in a strict embrace, and overflowing tears and eyes, uplifted in return of gratitude to heaven, were sure ensigns to us of their sincerity and near alliance. The one found a son, and the other his father. To give the separate accounts of each of their escapes from Spain would be to enter on a kind of romance; and as to any part of their stories, before the time of their becoming prisoners to the Spaniards, we could learn nothing distinctly from them; for they both were modest and reserved.

This scene was a great pleasure to most of us, and could not fail of recommending them to our regard and civility. They lived in great love

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and friendship with each other, till the day of our engagement with the *Glorioso*: for here they discovered no alliance as before; the father throughout the whole engagement behaving with the greatest boldness and courage, as not to be outdone in either by any other person in the ship; and the son being the only man who shewed any tokens of fear, he having absented himself, and run, struck with terror, into the cock-pit for safety.

The next morning after the engagement, the old father came into the cabin to the commodore, and throwing himself at his feet, with much weeping, demanded from him, that vengeance should be executed on his son, or that he himself might have liberty to put him to death. Mr. Walker told him “that the christian religion

religion and the laws forbid him to take that power into his own hands ; and that though the law of arms might, upon regular proof and deliberate judgment, exercise that authority ; yet, as his son was of a strange nation, and not bound to fight for our country as the natives of it, humanity and mercy interposed, and stopped such a strict execution of the law." At this the old man seemed much to regret the tender pity of the commodore, which kept alive his shame ; he retired dissatisfied, and would never speak to his son, or allow him to come into his presence, till the very last day of their departure from the ship.

Some hours after we now had dismissed the Algerine, Mahomet (for such was the father's name) again took an opportunity of throwing himself at the

commodore's feet, and told him, "he wished that the British subjects had been brought aboard; for then, says he, in return of four men, I could have had the assurance to have asked you for my liberty." This greatly affected the commodore, as he would very gladly have granted it to him; but in the stricter attention to the other business, he had never once thought of him. However, he promised him, that he would take care to send him and his son to England, and from thence at his own expence, have them carried to their own country. "Oh, sir, (replies Mahomet) the cup of your goodness will be mixed with too much bitterness, if he be permitted to accompany me. Let him range the earth in exile from that country which must be dishonoured by his first foot-step on its sands."

Mr.

Mr. Walker here had time of talking to him, how much nobler the virtues rise which constitute forgiveness, than they which satisfy revenge. “ Yes, (says the Turk) our religion teaches forgiveness of an injury done to ourselves ; but an injury done to our country, whereby the criminal dishonours the race of the prophet, ought not to be allowed to plead for any private pity, but suffer the laws of public condemnation : else the exalted sons of Mahomet may fall into a degeneracy of blood, and lose their rank on earth.” The commodore still pressed the argument, “ that this accusation did not hold against the young man, as he was not fighting for his country ; and that though the English were his friends, yet they were a different people and christians.” “ But (replies the father) he fought

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against

against his enemies, and against the common enemy of mankind, slavery ; and he who fights against this fights for his country." Mr. Walker here gave up the argument ; but ordered in the young man, and endeavoured to introduce him to his father for a reconciliation. The old one turned from him and wept. " At last, says he, addressing only the commodore, I have promised you, not to kill him in your ship, and he shall live whilst he is yours." But to some of us who interfered in pressing the reconciliation, and spoke largely of christian forgiveness, he said, " You may make a christian, if you please, of my son. Try him, he'll become one." We could not help laughing at the bad compliment he paid us at the conclusion ; though his meaning was certainly no other, than that a bad man in any one circumstance
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of acting, is to be supposed the most capable of doing other acts of meanness, as most apostacies in general are.

Four days after this, we met with another large ship ; which, when we came up with her, proved an Algerine admiral of fifty guns. Here a new and unexpected opportunity again offered for Mahomet's release. Upon coming so near to the ship as to discover of a certainty what she was, and before we spoke to her, the commodore again called Mahomet and his son to him, and told the father, " that if he promised to forgive his son, he would now put them both aboard a ship of their own country : but if he continued to refuse such promise, he would put the son only aboard, or discover to the rest of his countrymen the whole affair, and the

nature of his fault, thereby to take the power of punishment out of his hands." This seemed to sting the old man deeper than any thing preceding. The sense of his family-shame being divulged brought blushes in his face, one succeeding another in a quick transition to red from paleness. He then promised, in his customary solemnity, "that provided the affair was kept secret from his countrymen, he would forgive him, and pray to his prophet to shed a better influence on him for the future." They then embraced, the young man all along behaving with great concern and modesty, no other ways pretending to an excuse, than that the fight was a new manner to him. The old father then prayed for the commodore, and all who depended on him, and promised, "that
if

if ever he met him in his country, he would tell the heavens his obligation."

After a strict enquiry was made in the other ship, whether there were any British subjects on board, and none being any ways discovered, the commodore sent Mahomet and his son aboard. When the officer returned, who attended them, he told us, "that the moment the old man went aboard, he was known by the admiral, who took him in his arms, and paid him great signs of compliment:" by which we judged, that he had been a person of greater rank and distinction than his modesty or prudence thought fit to discover to us. The Algerine admiral gave us the highest salute of his guns, which we returned, and so parted.

On the first of February, we lost *Feb*
sight of the Duke, and made several *1748*

false fires all night, none of which or any other of our signals were answered, on that or on the succeeding ^{8 Feb} days: but on the eighth, we met a ^{1⁴/48} Dutch ship which came from Lisbon, and informed us that the Duke was got in there, before he sailed. This account made us easy in regard to the safety of the ship; but for the reason of his going from us, we were still in the dark.

Though in this last part of our cruise we met not with the success we had been accustomed to hope for, yet we had no cause to lament our particular ill luck in competition with the better fortune of others; for of several king's ships and letters of marque, which we chased and came up with, not one as we could learn had within this time met with any prize. The Hayannah fleet was all we could have

ex-

expected ; and that we missed by our being detained on account of the provisions sent to Faro, as before mentioned.

The time now came, when the cruises of the other ships were expired, but not of the King George ; for, as we had been ten weeks in harbour on account of our late repairing, that time could not be reckoned as part of the eight months, which were to be run out at sea. Wherefore the commodore resolved to send the other ships home ; and though determined himself to spin out the remainder of his cruise to the last, yet for the present he was not able to keep the seas. His bowsprit, which was repaired at Lagos bay, was again sprung, and we wanted an entire new main-mast ; so that the ship was in great distress : wherefore, he found himself obliged

to make once more for Lisbon to repair, contrary to his own inclinations, and the positive directions of the letter sent to him at Faro; "which expressly forbid him on any account whatever to put in there any more; the wind and weather not permitting him to make for any other port. As we were in such distress, he made the other ships attend him to within four leagues of the rock of Lisbon, and then proceed on their way home to England.

The day before they parted us, the commodore went on board each ship, and returned thanks to the officers and men for their good behaviour in general. The return on the other side in their compliments of taking leave, had a natural sincerity in it above the common tokens of civility; which I shall not attempt to describe. March the 25th the ships
saluted

25 Mar
1748

saluted us, and set sail for England.
We went into Lisbon.

In their way home, the Prince Frederick on the 27th fell in with *27 Mar* his majesty's ships the Eagle, captain (now admiral) Rodney, and the Windsor, captain Bateman ; who had been chased two days before by six large sail of Spanish men of war. Thus, if we did not succeed to our wishes in our late cruise, we were still fortunate beyond our knowledge, in escaping so near a danger. And the Princess Amelia took a Dutchman, which she had reasons to believe a prize, and therefore brought her into England. But she was afterwards on a trial at law, set at large at her own costs. The two ships reached England about the tenth of April 1748. The Prince George had been before sent home with our prize, the Nympha. *April 1748*

C H A P. IX.

Some mismanagement of affairs relating to the fleet. The former agents seize the ship King George. Most of the men go into foreign services. Some reflections thereon. An offer of a command from the court of Portugal to Mr. Walker. Mr. Walker's return to England in the Lisbon packet, and his preserving the same.

WHEN the commodore got to Lisbon, he found there some alterations. Messrs. Mawman and Macey having drawn on the managers for the money advanced by them, their bills had been protested at London to a very considerable amount, occasioned by some dispute arising between the managers at home and

and them; and the manager whom we had left at Lisbon was gone to England in the Duke, captain Denham, he having ordered him to wait for him for that purpose at a certain station, by his letters sent to him at Faro, as we have before-mentioned; the late agents, had arrested or attached the Buen Consejo in the port of Lisbon, in part of payment of themselves as the only remedy in their power. To frustrate any like designs in them in regard to the rest of the fleet was the reason of the said then residing manager sending the letter to the commodore at Faro, forbidding him to return to Lisbon on any account whatever : thus we see also, the sending round the provisions to Faro was not the act only of giddy play or want of skill. A new agent, one Mr. Atley, had been appointed ready to succeed
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into the place of the former, and every thing relating to our affairs was in confusion. But the commodore, willing to keep matters together as well as he could, as also to perform the remainder of his cruise, consulted with his new agent Mr. Atley, who took advice of his lawyer, whether, if he refitted his ship it could be seized on the same account by the said agents; and being informed that it could not, for that no step whatever could be taken thereto, without previous notice to the party, sufficient to contest such claim, Mr. Atley advanced money on the account of the managers, and compleated her for the sea. These repairs took about eight weeks, when the former agents, who had all this while judiciously lain quiet, seized also the King George by a stratagem of giving notice of the seizure to the commodore,

modore, in a paper thrust into his hand as a petition (when he was in a hurry of business) and made an absolute sale of her, by the form of public notice being read in the open streets, as the law for the sake of security directs : but which good intent is too often, as was the present case, subverted in the practice, by reading the notice at a secret opportunity, before two or three witnesses brought with them on purpose as evidences thereof. By this stroke the commodore found his ship all at once slipped away from under him, the cruise frustrated, and all his men adrift in a foreign country, without money, no care had, or provision made for them, open mouthed in their abuses against the managers, and many of them scarcely civil in their demands against him, as some of them now began to include

clude him in the phrase of, *All rogues alike.*

If malicious report has laid the blame on Mr. Walker of this ship being seized and arrested from the managers, the truth of the fact here told, I hope, shews him intirely free of the charge ; as it was not only his intent to have secured her to his managers(whose friend sincerely he was) but had been more for his fame to have returned home successful in his own ship. If Messrs. Mawman and Macey were to blame, it was not Mr. Walker's place to have commenced or taken on him any quarrel with them ; who could even have arrested him for the whole debt ; and which nothing hindered them from doing, but their particular regard for him. Mr. Walker applied to Mr. Atley chiefly in behalf of the men, for money to carry them
and

and himself home; but he now refused to advance any more, and of his own accord summoned the gentlemen of the factory together to raise a subscription for sending home their distressed countrymen. Mr. Walker could not but resent this proceeding as an affront on the managers, and attended the meeting; when the gentlemen wisely distinguished that the present subjects of their consideration were all men of acquired fortune, and could not justly be set in the light of wanting charity. Mr. Atley also could not but understand some observations made by the company on the present proposal as a rebuke to his conduct, but endeavoured to excuse himself by still an higher affront on the managers, “that he was afraid to advance any more money to them, lest he should be served as the late agents were.”

were." Here Mr. Walker, who was still an advocate for his managers, could not help reprimanding him for his presumption, "as he said, he could speak from nothing else, he not having experienced any ill from them." When a gentleman of the factory then there, Mr. Horne, generously stood up and made an offer to Mr. Walker of any money, which he might have occasion for on his own credit, which friendship he to this day continues, Mr. Walker made use of his beneficence, and took up several sums, which he distributed among some of the officers and men who were willing ^{to} ~~of~~ return home, to pay their passages to England, taking their receipts for the same. All which money Mr. Walker has since answered on his own account, and the men's receipts are part of his present disputed accounts with the managers.

nagers. But notwithstanding his utmost endeavours and perswasion (as he now had no other power) many of them went into foreign services, thus disgusted at their own. Several staid in Portugal, but most went to Spain; some of whom set up a woollen manufactory there, to which business they had been bred; and others went into the king's public yards, to work at building and rigging ships. And one man in particular, as Mr. Walker has been since creditably informed, had an high salary fixt on him for life, for his peculiar knowledge in this art and business.

It is very lamentable to see such numbers of our handicraft men employed in foreign states, especially that of Spain, to which I have been an eyewitness; where so large encouragements are offered as are sufficient to draw

draw over all our people who have taken any umbrage, or met any misfortune in their own country. And it is wonderful, some legislative care is not taken in regard to this loss to our country. In the present instance, certainly all proprietors of privateers ought to give bond, or be answerable to the public for the return of the hands taken out of the kingdom, the common casualties excepted: for there is greater danger in this light from the desertion of men out of privateers, than in general out of king's ships; because many of the former are broken tradesmen, or ruined handicrafts, who flee from their homes for debt, and hope to win fortune to them again by making a bold stroke at her; who, if seduced away, or left destitute among our enemies, carry their trades and arts with them.

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The common reason given abroad by our countrymen themselves for their deserting their mother-country, is the ill policy of our government or laws, in allowing gaols and prisons to be the equal punishment of debtors, as of felons, thieves, and perjurers, contrary to the better practice of almost every other country in the world. By which means, not only numbers flee away for fear of perpetual bondage in their boasted land of liberty, but also many bankrupts, who are denied their certificates at the will of, perhaps one angry creditor, and others who take the benefit of the acts of insolvency; both of whom, after giving up their all they have in the world, are further impeded from setting up any business in their own country, by the impolitic scrupulousness or needless conscience of the law, in making their

5 future

future effects liable to their former creditors : for if they, having nothing of their own, must set up again in credit, who will trust them with effects, which, before they can be turned into profit, are liable to be instantaneously seized for the debts due to another ? I own myself obliged for this argument to a pamphlet lately published, intitled, *Observations on the present State of Bankrupts, in a Letter to a Member of Parliament*, and well worthy the attention of the legislature.

The succeeding matter is another instance of the watchful attention, which foreign nations lend to the merit of our country men, and shews how ready they are to offer them encouragement.

We have taken notice that Mr. Walker was known to the court of Portugal. Being now left alone
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to shift for himself, as the affair was public over the whole place, and is at this day better known there than in any part of Great-Britain, a gentleman of the court paid him a visit one morning, and proposed to him, as an offer from the king, the command of one of his majesty's ships of war, with assurances of his said majesty's further notice and favour. Mr. Walker, not a little surprized at the proposal, only asked two days to consider of it. The step he took for his direction in this affair, was to go to Sir Benjamin Keene; and candidly laying open the whole to him, he asked his advice how to rule his conduct in regard to it. His excellency, with the greatest politeness, yet zeal for his country, addressed Mr. Walker on the subject to this purpose.—“ Sir, says he, I see by your asking my advice, that yor inclination leans towards the acceptance, else you yourself could

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have given a direct answer to the proposal. It is true, the offer is great, and must proceed from a particular good opinion his Portuguese majesty has of your merits. His future favours may constantly attend your deserts, and we may with reason suppose you in time, perhaps, admiral of his fleet. But then, Sir, you are to consider, that Portugal is not your country, and you may be brought into a desperate dilemma, by engaging yourself to it so essentially ; for though the country be now in friendship with each other, who knows, as the event of all things is in the hands of providence, how soon they may be at variance ? Then how can you fight against your own country ? or how can you in honour desert the prince, whose bounty and favours, gratitude may lay on you as bonds of obligation ? But besides all this, there is, Sir, a deeper consideration.

tion. We will suppose, that there is no likelihood of a war in your time between the different countries ; or we will suppose, that you enter into this service under the proviso of being free to desert it, in case of such a rupture ; where certainly every reasonable system will allow, that your honour would engage you first to your own country ; yet can you conceive, that you can command a ship or a fleet in this country, and that other people will not learn from your knowledge, and grow experienced under your practice ? Then consider, (as observation, when once set in a right path, may find its way to knowledge and perfection) how you may be an instrument of teaching another nation to be a competitor to your own, and that in its greatest and most peculiar art of war, and power of defence : What effusion of blood may in future ages

proceed from so single a first cause ! Above all this, there is a perpetual restlessness in a man's breast, when he is in the service of any foreign power: for when we are not with our country, we cannot help fearing that we are against it : the love of our country is an instinct, politically implanted by heaven within our natures. It is true, his Britannic majesty in his great indulgence has often given leave to his subjects to go into the service of other powers in peace, or in alliance with him : but under the reproof of better wisdom, I think it for the above reason a very impolitic practice. And in the present case, there is one very particular objection. Your appearance in the Portuguese service may give umbrage to another power now in peace with us; I mean the Algerines, who are the declared enemies of the Portuguese, and who, from

a knowledge they have gained of you by so long a cruise in those parts, and by your having stopped so many of their ships, may, as they are a people quick in conceiving offence, resent to our court at home, “that a British subject should take a command from their enemies against them.” Was your situation, Sir, in your own country uneasy to you, was your fortune low, or had your country used you with any cruelty or slight of your merits, you might have reasons to wish for a change. None of these, Sir, I find is the case: they are only wishes of preferment that charm your attention; and if you will trust in my interest, you shall not long go unnoticed by your country.”

The argument, which preceded the last genteel promise, had sufficiently fixed Mr. Walker's resolution.

And when the gentleman paid his second visit for Mr. Walker's answer; the proposal offered, was, with great acknowledgments of the compliment, rejected. Whether Sir Benjamin Keene ever did write home to his friends in recommendation of Mr. Walker, we cannot presume to say; but if he did, the other never heard of it. Which however, as he never made any applications, might have never reached his knowledge.

At this time also Mr. Walker had intelligence of ill news from home, in the exact account of the loss of our other prize the *Nympha*, who had been sent to England under convoy of his majesty's ship the *Bedford*, commodore Townshend; and who, after she had arrived safe at Portsmouth, in coming round from thence to London, lost sight of her convoy in the night,
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and thinking that she had shot a-head, shortened sail to wait for their coming up ; whereas her convoy was a-head of her. After laying some hours under their mizen and foresail, they to their great surprize saw breakers under their lee ; and notwithstanding all diligence was used to get her double reefed top-sail set, she was in the midst of the breakers before they could shoot her clear, and there was stranded. At day-break they found themselves under the cliffs of Beachy Head : The ship was insured for upwards of an hundred and three thousand pounds ; and about thirty-five thousand pounds of her effects and cargo were saved to the underwriters, by the fidelity and activity of one of the managers, who immediately went down to the wreck. But it was said, that there was a deficiency

or loss of a large sum in the payment of the money insured, by the failure of some of the underwriters.

We here also met with the French merchant, whom we saw at the inn at Morlaix, and who had introduced Mr. Walker to the gentleman to buy the vessel to transport us to England. He had failed in his trade in France, and was going with his wife and family to settle in the West-Indies; but the ship, in which he was passenger, being met by an English privateer, was taken: he was brought in with her hither, and was in extream poverty. Mr. Walker made a collection of money for him amongst his friends; who were very liberal on the occasion, and set him up in necessaries, so as to enable him to proceed to the West-Indies, without returning back a petitioner

tioner to France. He told us a most piteous story, relating to his affairs ; but at one circumstance we could not help smiling, tho' a scene of some horror. Of all the poor man's misfortunes, his wife was the greatest. The matrimonial power was not divided in equal shares betwixt them : she, good woman, assumed the greater part both in judgment, command, and execution ; whilst again every thought and act of hers submitted to a ruling passion she had for a young child in her arms. This was still more irksome to him under authority ; as times of eating, drinking, study, amusement, and rest were interrupted by the under-duties attendant thereon, which fell to his share. In giving us a description of the engagement of the ship, in which he was taken (as she had made an obstinate resistance) he

told us that his wife would not consent to his deserting her side the whole time of the fight, but kept him with her in the cock-pit ; where she sat weeping and wailing over her dear foundling, when a ball coming in at the side of the ship, on a sudden struck the child out of her arms, and dashed it to pieces without doing the least hurt to her, or injuring any other person. The man, in describing the scene, and the surprise and looks of his wife at the loss of the child, could not help introducing an expressive action of humour, that forced us to laugh at the tragedy, as at blunders in the most serious scenes. How far the relation may be depended on as a truth, must be left to what credit the reader will give the French gentleman : he scarcely could have invented it ; nor had he
need

need of any exaggeration by way of affecting pity.

Mr. Walker's presence being no longer needed at Lisbon, he set sail for England in the packet, with several of his officers, and about forty of the common men; who would not desert him to the very last, nor act in any thing but by his direction. There was certainly a Providence in this: for as the packet came out by the rock of Lisbon, we saw at some distance a long-built vessel of twenty guns, which we could discover full of men, and which we at first imagined a Spanish barquo-longo. The captain of the packet was a very old gentleman, who was in the greatest consternation imaginable, and thought it most advisable to fly from them, in hopes that we might escape them in the night. This appeared contrary to the

judgment of Mr. Walker, who saw by her over-hauling us so fast, that she would be up with us before night ; when some fatal accident might happen by the plunder of the enemy in the night, as by our running from them they would be more resolute in attacking us ; which accident there was a probability of avoiding, by encountering them by daylight ; especially as the packet had sixteen guns, and as his additional hands were a strength to be depended on. Some of our men having dropped an expression, " that if their captain had the command he would beat the long Spaniard out of the sea," two English merchants, who were on board, and had a great property in the ship, went to the captain of their own accord, and begged of him, that he would leave the whole direction

tion of their present distressed affairs to the conduct and experience of Mr. Walker, as an officer more versed in engagements of the kind. The old gentleman very readily consented, and Mr. Walker took on himself the character of first lieutenant. We had not made long preparation before we discovered the ship to be an Algerine. This was an enemy no less to be dreaded : for though we were at peace with them, yet as the packet had Portuguese property on board, they would have seized every shilling of the money (which was a very considerable sum) and carried us to Algiers; and though we and the packet might afterwards have been delivered up, the affair might have been a matter of litigation, and brought on very sad consequences to our disfavour.

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As soon as Mr. Walker was assured of his enemy being other than was first imagined, he altered his design; and, desiring the captain to retire to his own apartment, and there to take on him as much state as possible, when the Algerine officer should come on board, he ordered all his own officers and men, with the other sailors on board to quarters, and the marines to their small-arms. He ordered also his drums to beat to arms, and his band of music (all whom he had with him) to strike up, when they came within the hearing of the enemy; and ordering also a gun to be fired, we bore down directly on them with our ensign, jack, and pennant flying. When we came within hailing, Mr. Walker ordered them to hoist out their boat, and send on board a lieutenant. They continued a long

[long time in suspense, and returned no answer, apparently at a loss what to make of us, seeming other to them than they expected. He again hailed them, “ that if they did not send their boat with an officer on board, he would sink them.” They then asked, “ what we were ?” He answered, “ a king’s ship of war.” Upon which they immediately hoisted out their boat, and an officer came on board. The officer was conducted to the captain, who maintained his dignity extremely well, and asking the proper questions, dismissed him. He then returned aboard his own ship; but Mr. Walker immediately hailed them, “ not to make sail, till he gave orders.” This could not but employ their attention from a more minute scrutiny, and confirm them in the opinion of our being a king’s ship, had the

lieutenant or attending boat seen any thing to create a suspicion to the contrary, as it shewed us in no great hurry of leaving them. Accordingly he soon gave the order, and they went off, saluting us with five guns, which we returned with three; they one more for thanks.

This was the last gun Mr. Walker heard fired all that war, or indeed ever since at sea. How usefully to his country he might have been employed in the present, the reader, otherwise unacquainted with him, may, we hope, from those past scenes, form some judgment, which his friends and they who are knowing of him, can better tell; but as we are now come to the last scene of the last act of the present work, we will make haste to drop the curtain: for the sword having performed its part,
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the play ought certainly to be done. Thus in the year 1748 Mr. Walker returned to England, preserving the packet, which did him the kind office of landing him in his own country. This very packet was taken the year following by an Algerine, who laid wait for her, and was carried into Algiers : By which all the property in her, to a very considerable amount, was irrecoverably lost to the owners. The packet and men were, indeed, afterwards restored ; but not without much state altercation, in which great time was lost.

We have now brought Mr. Walker back to land, to the same place from whence we launched him on our detail, with design to set his abilities to public view, and shew, that he has been so long laid-by, through no defect in them : for I cannot but look
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on him as a sound and good ship, shut up in dock: and therefore, we have been more particular in shewing him in several scenes, which even deviated from the transactions of the sea. In which we hope to meet excuse; we having had a particular reason for so doing; as by some misrepresentations of those very actions by common fame, his behaviour in them has been unjustly and with ill-nature reported. The reasons of his inforced inactivity are a distinct subject of a more private nature, into which I am by no means desirous of entering; unless such justification of him, in private life also, may be hereafter thought necessary or asked by the public: it is a matter of which even he himself speaks with the greatest reluctance. Pity it is! that where there is so little fault on one side,

side,

side, the evil machinations of designing men, who from various principles and from variety of purposes often get between friends, and set them at variance, should conjure up to the vision of jealousy any imaginary charges against him; for he has been all his life abhorring of every mean or bad revenge; though in his restrained circumstances, he has been often obliged to yield his ear to the advice he never followed, and which he from his soul despised. I will be particular in mentioning the evil instigator or genius of ill that changed the paradise of his life into the fallen state, in which he has so long remained; but in which it is impossible for his worst enemies to make him miserable, as he never was seen through the whole course of it to be a single moment out of temper at his fate.

The

The wicked author I mean is Mr. Goddard, the aforesaid agent for the people. A powerful man, as of large fortune ! but I fear not to provoke him ; as I have truths to oppose to every attempt of his resentment. For Mr. Walker never quarrelled with his managers, till a dispute arose in their accounts, on the large sums he had advanced to his officers and men for their use ; but was for many years after his arrival in England in their highest esteem. It certainly shews our want of sense to be induced by the artifices of others from our own reason and better knowledge of men and things ; as it originally was want of virtue to be imposed on by the insinuation of the first tempter to vice ! For Mr. Walker, immediately upon his arrival, applied himself to works of greater importance, the *General British*

British Fishery; and which he has to this day more at heart than any other business even of conquest.* I mean not the British Herring fishery: tho' in that he was so far engaged, as to propose a plan for it to the society, taken from the present practice of the Dutch in the like branch of trade and business, and even went to Holland on purpose to make himself more skilled in a knowledge of it; but on his return home, found Party contending for a majority in it, and Inexperience presiding at the board, fond of her own thoughts: so that he declined being concerned therein, and its success proves his foresight, and must confess that his judgment was the better rule to have been followed. The fishery I mean is the great treasure, which also annually returns to the borders of these kingdoms, but has

* See Essays on the Herring fishery, Essay, i. p. 22.

has not yet found the way of being brought a-shore; the cod, tusk, and ling fishery. In prosecuting of which he made a voyage from Norway all round the coast of Scotland, and at his own expence has taken charts and maps of all the soundings and every bank of that long tract of shore; and having purchased several ships, actually begun the work, to the establishment of many hundred of families in that country; who now enjoy from his pains and invention a happy maintenance, in a work encreasing every hour in value to his country. How far his country may pursue the advantage already sprung for her, and find the activity of his mind of use to her in peace as well as war, I leave to the political Providence of these countries to rule and determine. It is certain, that in this undertaking the
first

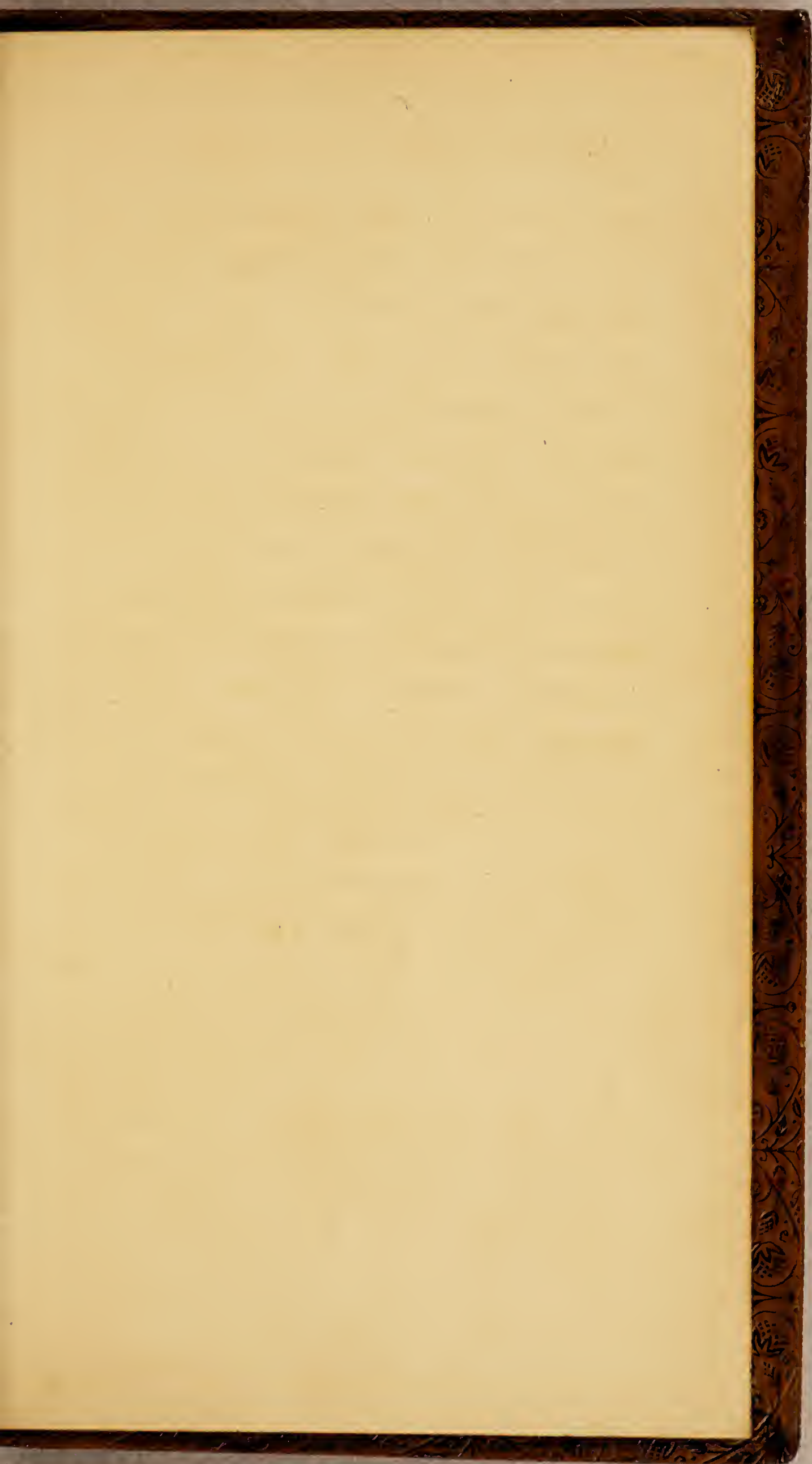
first expences, which all new works necessarily demand, had employed the greater part of his fortune, before the returns could supply the deficiencies made in it: which accident must not even be charged to any rashness of conduct in him, but to a belief that his fortune was greater in the hands of his agents, by his aforesaid advance to the officers and men, than in account it is allowed to be. To these we may add some other losses in trade. Yet, to prove the merit of his plan, and good design for his country, he still enjoys the blessing of his own invention, with the continuance of the favours of his friends; his chief dependance being now owing to the friendship of a worthy gentleman, his name-fake, no relation, and in a foreign capacity to sea-affairs; who has provided him a ship in this very trade,
and

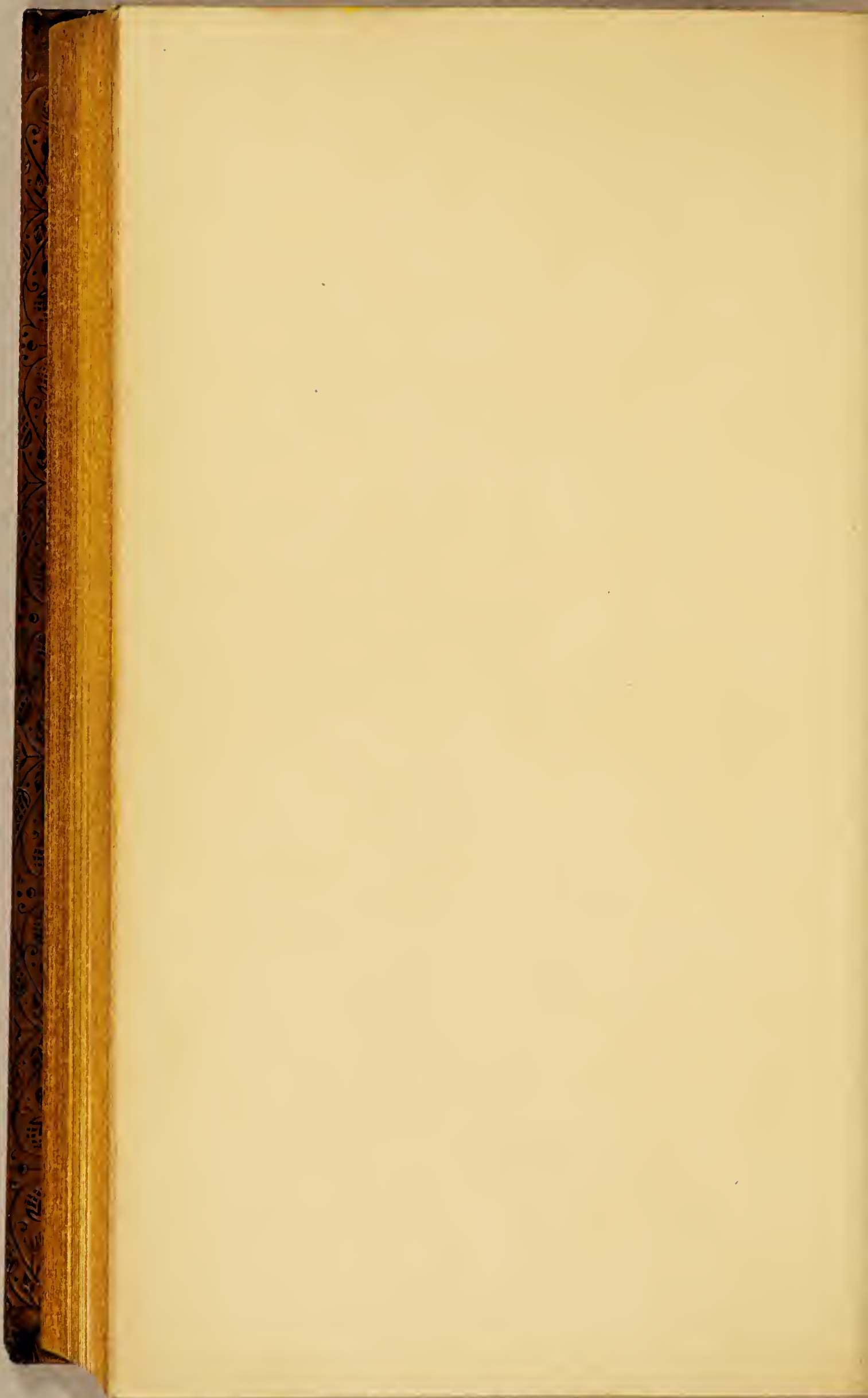
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 and allows him a profit for his support. In the more general direction of which trade, if ever it be thought of merit deserving to be more publicly extended,—as nothing would return the public more recompence or reward,—he certainly has the first right of asking to be employed. But this is a plan, which with his remarks and observations taken of the sea-coast, is sufficient, and may be worthy of a volume to itself.

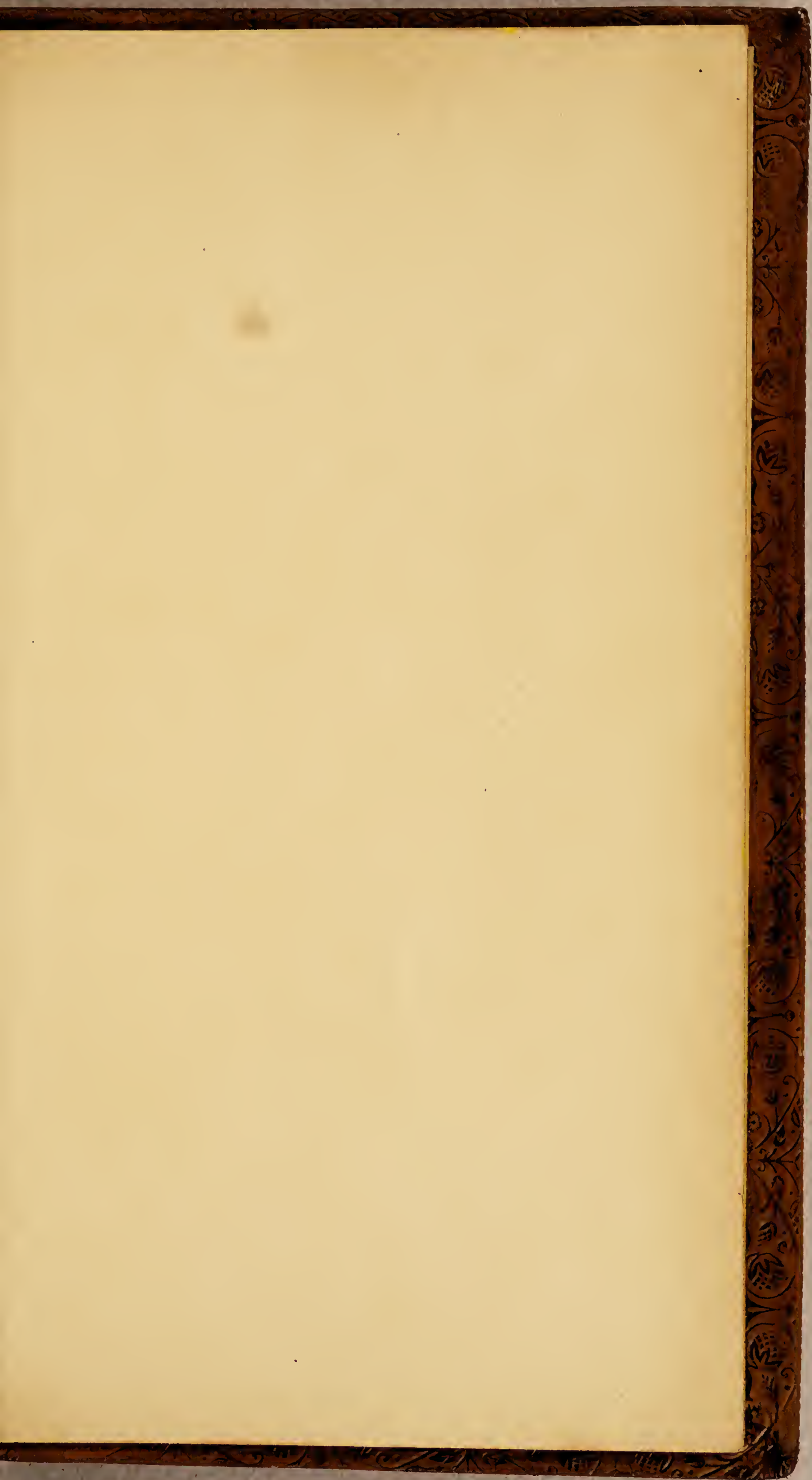
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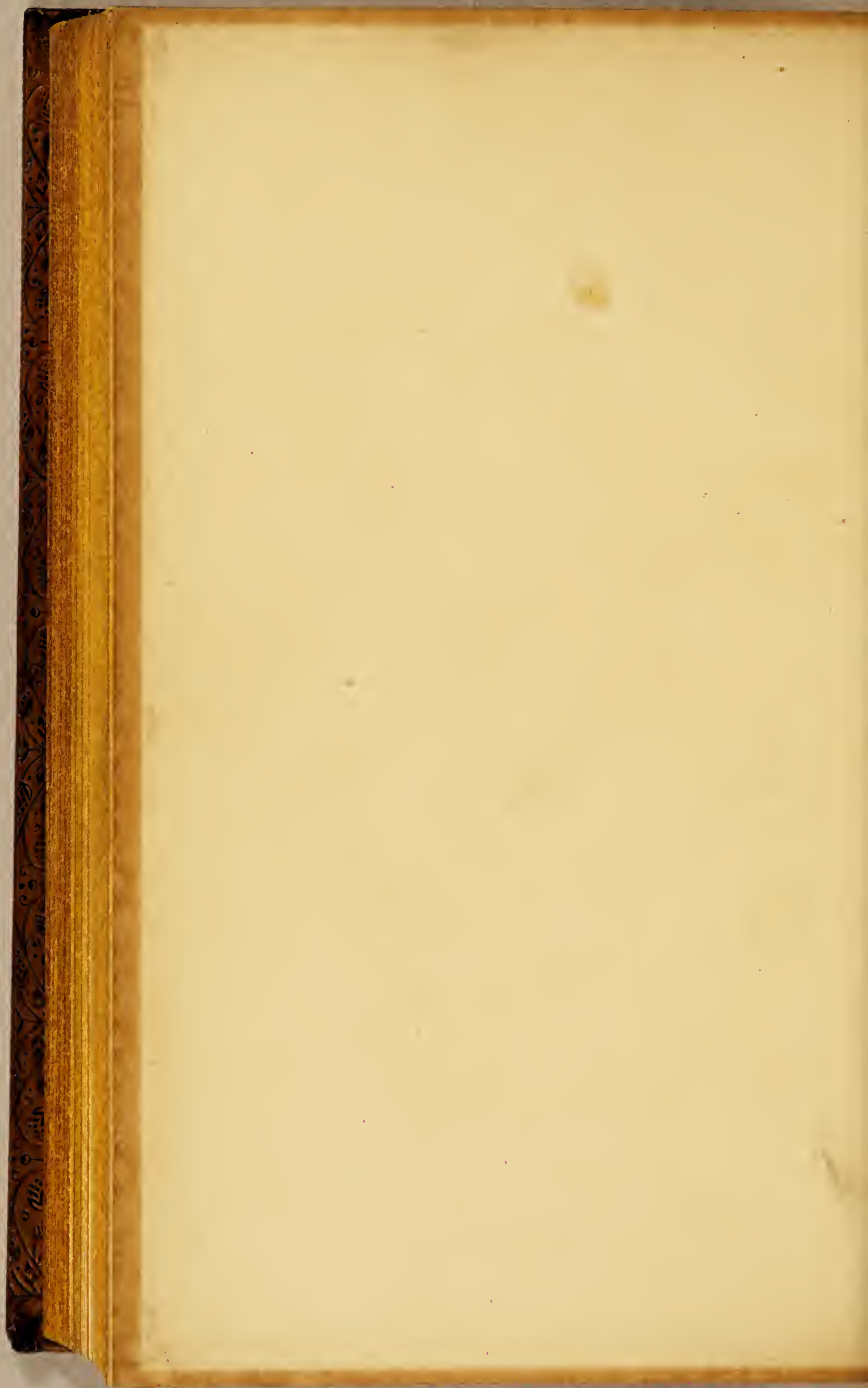
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